



JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title:	Research Assistant in Clinical Psychology
	4 days/week (must include Tuesday)
Salary:	£28,407 p.a. pro rata
Duration:	Fixed term for 19 months
Annual leave:	27 days pro rata in addition to statutory holidays
Accountable to:	Paul Richards (Director of Stay Up Late) and Alana Loewenberger (UCL), Katrina Scior (PI)
Closing date:	4 April 2024, 1pm
Interviews:	16 April 2024 (we cannot accommodate requests for alternatives) Interview will take place in person at Stay Up Late's Brighton & Hove office
How to apply:	Please send CV and covering statement (500 words max) to paul@stayuplate.org

Background

This project is a joint venture between the charity Stay Up Late and the UCL Unit for Stigma Research (UCLUS), funded by the Baily Thomas Charitable Fund. [Gig Buddies](#) is an award-winning befriending intervention run by Stay Up Late, which draws on existing social and cultural interests in bringing individuals with learning disabilities and volunteer befrienders together. Our initial qualitative evaluation conducted in partnership between [Stay Up Late](#) and UCLUS researchers (Dr Fiona Brand, Dr Alana Loewenberger and Prof. Katrina Scior) suggests that it can benefit people with learning disabilities in many ways. We have now secured funding to explore the experience and impact of Gig Buddies in a larger mixed methods study.

The Research Assistant will engage with five [Gig Buddies](#) sites in the UK and will support recruitment of participants, collect data, using both standardised questionnaires and interviews, analyse both quantitative and qualitative data, write up the results and support the study generally. They will be directly involved in data collection with adults with learning disabilities and also volunteer befrienders.

The post will be based with the charity [Stay Up Late](#), based in Brighton and Hove. The postholder will also have regular supervision from Dr Alana Loewenberger, Associate Professor in Clinical Psychology with UCLUS, based within UCL's Research Department of Clinical Educational & Health Psychology. They will be a member of the small project team across Stay Up Late and UCL.

This post will require a minimum of 3 days/week working from Stay Up Late's Brighton and Hove based office. There may be some travel to study sites.

Summary of post

The post-holder will contribute to all aspects of the study: assisting with preparation of materials; in partnership with participating Gig Buddies sites, recruiting of participants to the study; collecting questionnaire data; conducting interviews; statistical and qualitative analysis; maintaining databases and project documentation; liaising effectively with members of the research team and participating organisations; timely reporting on study progress and contribution to dissemination of the project through journal articles and conference presentations.

This is an excellent opportunity for a research assistant to play a role in an exciting and novel mixed methods project that combines research with face-to-face participant contact.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

- To support recruitment of participants to the study
- To obtain consent and administer standardised questionnaires
- To conduct semi-structured interviews and collect qualitative data
- To transcribe interviews
- To conduct qualitative and statistical analyses of data
- To contribute to the writing of reports, journal articles and conference presentations
- To complete other tasks as directed by the postholder's immediate supervisors and the project lead
- To ensure that participant confidentiality is maintained, in accordance with the Data Protection Act (1988).
- To follow actively policies including Equal Opportunities policies.

Note: This job description is not exhaustive; details may need to change in consultation with the post-holder and in line with the requirements of the post.

PERSON SPECIFICATION: RESEARCH ASSISTANT

The successful applicant will be a hard-working, motivated team player, able to take responsibility and work on their own initiative whilst working equally well as part of a team and under supervision. The skills, abilities, experience and knowledge outlined below provide a summary of what is required to carry out this job effectively. They also form the selection criteria on which the appointment decision will be made.

Essential	Desirable
Knowledge and Skills	
<p>A first degree in psychology of a good 2.1 standard (≥65%)</p> <p>Understanding of the role of befriending as means to furthering inclusion and wellbeing</p> <p>Knowledge of research methodology</p> <p>Statistical analysis skills</p> <p>Computing skills, including Word, Excel and SPSS or JASP</p> <p>Excellent organisational skills</p> <p>Excellent social skills to establish rapport with participants and research team members</p> <p>Good communication and presentation skills</p> <p>Effective written and verbal communication skills</p>	<p>MSc in a relevant field</p> <p>Knowledge of applied and/or research work to further the inclusion and wellbeing of people with learning disabilities</p> <p>Knowledge of a range of statistical techniques and ability to use statistical packages</p> <p>Able to communicate complex ideas to people with limited cognitive functioning</p> <p>Familiar with requirements and methods of making written information accessible, ideally for people with intellectual disabilities</p>
Experience	
<p>Having conducted an empirical research project</p> <p>Some experience of working in partnership with self-advocates and their organisations</p>	<p>Experience of working with young people or adults with learning disabilities</p> <p>Experience of working in partnership with self-advocates with learning disabilities</p> <p>Experience of delivering psychosocial group interventions</p>

Aptitudes	
<p>Ability to work independently and collaboratively as part of a team, and to form good working relationships with colleagues and research participants</p> <p>Able to work to flexible hours when needed to fit in with the schedules of participants (within reason)</p> <p>Commitment to Stay Up Late's policy of equal opportunity and the ability to work harmoniously with colleagues and research participants of all cultures and backgrounds</p>	<p>Commitment to supporting people with learning disabilities in making a meaningful contribution to research</p> <p>Able to engage stakeholders using flexibility and humour, where indicated</p>