Methodology Incubator
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Applied Health and Care Research Methodologists

We are raising awareness of careers in research methodology applied to health and social care, where methodologists contribute expertise to health or social care research projects.

A research methodologist is someone who develops, studies or specialises in applying methods for research studies. Examples include statisticians, economists, modellers and social scientists.

Methodologists generally engage in the following stages of research development:

1. Develop research questions;
2. Lead, design, manage and provide oversight to studies;
3. Develop, test and apply procedures, tools and techniques for data collection, processing and storage;
4. Develop, test and apply procedures and techniques for data analysis and interpretation;

They may also interpret results in health, public health and social care research; disseminate results to the research/clinical community and to a wider audience; and implement research findings in the appropriate setting.

Please visit our website or scan the QR code for more information and to see our forthcoming events - https://methodologyincubator.org.uk/. We are also on LinkedIn @Methodology Incubator

SUPPORTED BY
NIHR | National Institute for Health and Care Research

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Research Methodologists include:

Behavioural Scientists. Study human behaviour to understand, predict and change it. Use findings to improve design of products, services, policies and communications.

Data Managers. Design, develop and validate databases to support trial conduct. Also involved in data processing, querying, data management plan, analysis and reporting.

Data Scientists. Quantitative researchers who combine statistical and programming skills to analyse large datasets for insight.

Economists. Quantitative researchers who use statistical models and the principals of economics to quantify the cost and benefit of potential health innovations. They can then provide recommendations for policy makers and health care providers.

Epidemiologists. Researchers including public health workers who investigates patterns and causes of disease and injury. They seek to reduce the risk and occurrence of negative health outcomes through research, community education and health policy.

Evidence Synthesis Experts. Bring together relevant information from a range of sources and disciplines and summarise evidence on a specific research question.

Qualitative Researchers. Study people's experiences, behaviours, and opinions to understand how they think, feel and act. These analysis methods are employed to gather data and answer questions about "why" and "how".

Statisticians. Involved in study and trial designs, helping to ensure research is robust and unbiased. They collect, analyse, interpret and report on data.

Clinical Trial and Study Managers. Play a key role in the design and conduct of studies. Often first point of contact for the wider team, coordinating the day-to-day activities of the study, seeking relevant approvals, communicating with recruiting sites and participants to ensure studies are delivered on time and within budget. They closely monitor progress, designing and implementing solutions when challenges occur.

Further links of interest

UK Trial Managers' Network: www.tmn.ac.uk
Clinical Trials Specialist Apprenticeship https://www.nulondon.ac.uk/degrees/degree-apprenticeships/clinical-trials-specialist/
Medical Statistician Apprenticeship psiweb.org/careers
Royal Statistical Society https://rss.org.uk/jobs-careers/career-development/types-of-job/
Post graduate training in qualitative research methods
https://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/about/pg-cert-qualitative-health-research-methods
Many masters level training courses are available in statistics, health economics and data science