

Arthritis UK

Volunteer Role Profile

Involvement Support Volunteer

Time Commitment: Flexible – research project meetings are held online and last around 1-2 hours, with an additional 1–2-hour preparation and follow up

Staff Contact: Research Involvement Manager

How you will make a difference

At Arthritis UK, we believe it's important for people who have experience living with arthritis to be involved in every step of the research we support. When people with real-life experience help shape and carry out research, the results are more useful and meaningful. This helps make sure the research focuses on the real challenges people face and can lead to better outcomes for them in the future.

Once we give money to support a research project, we check in with the team to see how things are doing with involving people with lived experience. Sometimes, they need a bit of help and support. As an Involvement Support volunteer, you'll help by giving advice to these researchers about including people who have arthritis in their work.

What you will be doing

- Working with a fellow volunteer to prepare and deliver advice sessions
- Giving personalised support and signposting
- Drafting and sharing reports on the challenges identified and advice you gave
- Providing a welcoming, supportive environment for all researchers
- Ensuring relevant procedures are followed.

Where you will be doing it

- Online sessions using Microsoft Teams or Zoom.

Who we are looking for

You don't need to be an expert, just passionate, reliable, and willing to learn!

- Experience of reviewing research proposals from researchers or of involving people with lived experience in research
- Caring, sensitive, and empathetic to people from all background
- Good communication skills
- Ability to give constructive feedback
- Good IT skills with reliable internet access
- Reliable and committed
- Willing to complete training and work as part of a team
- 18 years or over.

What you will get in return

- Training and induction to prepare you for your role
- Access to ongoing training, resources and support
- Opportunities to connect and network with other volunteers
- Development of valuable communication, coaching and support skills
- Opportunity to learn about research and specific research projects
- Reimbursement of reasonable expenses.

Important Information

Arthritis UK is committed to protecting children, young people, and vulnerable adults from harm. As part of our recruitment process, we follow safer recruitment practices and carry out the necessary checks to ensure candidates are suitable to volunteer with these groups. Completion of safeguarding training will also be required at the start of your volunteering.

For this role, our safer recruitment procedures include:

- An informal chat to discuss the role, get to know you and understand your motivations for volunteering
- Two references

- Photo identification.

Ready to join us?

We would love to hear from you! Let's **make a difference together.**



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