

CAREERS THROUGH MATHS: RESEARCH COORDINATOR



Research Coordinators use mathematics to solve complex problems and drive innovation. (Image Source: Unsplash)

JOB OVERVIEW

A Research Coordinator is the operational backbone of research projects, responsible for their meticulous planning, day-to-day management, and successful execution. In the UK, this role is pivotal within the National Health Service (NHS) for clinical trials, within universities like Oxford or Manchester for academic studies, and in the pharmaceutical and technology sectors for commercial R&D. Their daily responsibilities are diverse, encompassing tasks such as writing ethical approval applications for bodies like the Health Research Authority (HRA), recruiting participants, managing project budgets and timelines, and ensuring strict adherence to UK legislation such as the UK Policy Framework for Health and Social Care Research and the Data Protection Act 2018.

KEY MATHS APPLICATIONS

Primary Areas:

- **Statistics and Probability:** This is the cornerstone of the role. Research Coordinators use statistics to determine the sample size required for a study to have sufficient 'power' to...
- **Budgeting and Financial Mathematics:** Coordinators are often responsible for managing research grants. This involves creating detailed budgets, forecasting expenditure, and ensuring funds are spent...
- **Algebra and Logic:** Algebraic thinking is essential for developing and troubleshooting research protocols. A coordinator might use formulas to calculate correct drug dosages based...

ESSENTIAL SKILLS & TOOLS

SKILL	APPLICATION
Statistics and Probability	This is the cornerstone of the role.
Budgeting and Financial Mathematics	Coordinators are often responsible for managing research grants.
Algebra and Logic	Algebraic thinking is essential for developing and troubleshooting research protocols.
Data Management and Descriptive Analytics	Before complex statistical modelling begins, the coordinator is responsible for the...

TYPICAL PATHWAY

A strong foundation in Mathematics at GCSE and A-Level (or Scottish Highers) is essential. Most entrants hold a minimum of a 2:1 undergraduate degree in a numerate discipline such as Life Sciences, Psychology, Mathematics, or Statistics.

INDUSTRY DEMAND

Demand for Research Coordinators in the UK is strong and growing, particularly within the life sciences and technology sectors. The UK government's commitment to increasing R&D investment to 2.

REAL-WORLD IMPACT

Research Coordinators play a vital role in advancing the UK's knowledge economy and improving public services. They were instrumental in coordinating the nationwide RECOVERY trial, which identified life-saving treatments for COVID-19 and...

QUICK FACTS

- **Salary:** £250,000
- **Education:** GCSE and A-Level (or Scottish Highers) is essential
- **Growth:** Demand for Research Coordinators in the UK is strong and growing, particularly within the life sciences and technology sectors. The UK government's commitment to increasing R&D...