Research Fellow in Nutrition and Sustainability

FURTHER PARTICULARS

THE SCHOOL

The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine is a world-leading centre for research and postgraduate education in public and global health. Our mission is to improve health and health equity in the UK and worldwide; working in partnership to achieve excellence in public and global health research, education and translation of knowledge into policy and practice.

Founded in 1899 by Sir Patrick Manson, the School has expanded in recent years at its two main sites on Keppel Street and Tavistock Place. The School’s multidisciplinary expertise includes clinicians, epidemiologists, statisticians, social scientists, molecular biologists and immunologists, and we work with partners worldwide to support the development of teaching and research capacity.

Research income has grown to over £85 million per year from national and international funding sources including the UK government, the European Commission, the Wellcome Trust and philanthropic sources.

Education programmes have grown to more than 1,000 London-based Master’s and Research students, 2,900 studying Master’s by distance learning and 1,000 on short courses and continuous professional development. We have also launched a series of free online courses, and more than 15,000 people registered on the first of these, Ebola in context. Our staff, students and alumni work in more than 150 countries in government, academia, international agencies and health services.

The School is highly ranked in various university league tables. It was named the world’s leading research-focused graduate school in the Times Higher Education World Rankings in 2013. In 2014, it was ranked in the top 10 universities in the world for citation rate by the new EU-supported U-Multirank database, fourth in the world for impact in medical sciences by the Leiden Ranking and third in the world for social science and public health in the US News Best Global Universities Ranking. According to the results of the UK government’s Research Excellence Framework, published in December 2014, the School was ranked second overall (after the Institute for Cancer Research) on the key measure of impact.
THE FACULTY

The Faculty of Epidemiology & Population Health (EPH) aims to expand the limits of epidemiology and address some of the largest public health problems in the world. The Faculty’s mission is to inform the biological understanding of diseases and provide evidence for decision making in public health using methodologically rigorous and innovative approaches. We work in over 20 countries, on a range of diseases from HIV and cardiovascular disease to mental health.

The Faculty has around 330 staff (of which 25 are based outside the UK) and 150 research students organised into four departments:

- Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology
- Department of Medical Statistics
- Department of Non-communicable Disease Epidemiology
- Department of Population Health

THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of Population Health (DPH) aims to increase global access to effective treatments and public health interventions, and is a centre of excellence in the determinants and consequences of population change. DPH is home to the Nutrition Group, Global Mental Health, Maternal & Child Health Intervention Research, Clinical Trials Unit and the Population Studies Group. The department has strong links with many overseas research groups.

DPH provides world-class opportunities for postgraduate training; offering four masters courses: MSc Nutrition for Global Health, MSc Demography & Health, MSc Reproductive & Sexual Health Research, and the new MSc Global Mental Health.

THE LONDON INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE AND LEVERHULME CENTRE FOR INTEGRATIVE RESEARCH ON AGRICULTURE AND HEALTH

The London International Development Centre (LIDC) was established in 2008 under a formal agreement between the six Bloomsbury Colleges of the University of London: Birkbeck, Institute of Education, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, The School of Pharmacy, Royal Veterinary College and School of Oriental and African Studies. The objectives of LIDC include development of inter-College, inter-disciplinary research and training programmes on critical issues in international development, support to policy makers and strengthening of capacity in higher education and other institutions in low and middle income countries. LIDC is a membership organization open to staff, alumni and postgraduate studies of its Colleges, and is led by its Director, Professor Jeff Waage, who reports to the Heads of the Bloomsbury Colleges. Through workshops and other activities, LIDC helps to build and support new inter-College programmes.

The London International Development Centre led the development of LCIRAH, and the Director of LIDC is the Chair of the LCIRAH Management Committee. LIDC will provide administrative support and accommodation for the LCIRAH Professors and other staff at its premises at 36 Gordon Square. Two London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
Faculties are involved in LCIRAH, Epidemiology and Population Health and Public Health and Policy.

The Leverhulme Centre for Integrative Research in Agriculture and Health (LCIRAH) is an inter-sectoral and inter-disciplinary collaboration between the Bloomsbury Colleges of the University of London, involving staff and research student appointments in the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and other Colleges, led by a cross-College Management Team. LCIRAH staff are being housed at LIDC in specially dedicated facilities.

The aim of LCIRAH is to better address complex global issues surrounding the need to feed 9 billion people healthily by 2050. The research focuses on six key themes:

- Agriculture, poverty and health
- Agriculture, diet, and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in development
- Emerging food-borne and zoonotic diseases
- Value chain approaches in agri-health
- Innovative metrics for agriculture and health research and evaluation
- The impact of the environment and climate change on agriculture, health and nutrition

This research fellow appointment will specifically provide support to two on-going research activities in LCIRAH on the theme of nutrition and sustainability.

**THE POST**

**Background**

We are seeking to appoint a research fellow in Nutrition and Sustainability to work on two Wellcome Trust funded projects focusing on diets, climate change and health. Global health is under serious threat: humanity faces profound questions about how the planet can healthily sustain nine billion people by 2050. Demand for food is rising, fresh water is becoming scarce, and climate change is influencing disease spread, to mention just a few of the challenges. LSHTM and LCIRAH staff were awarded grants from the Wellcome Trust for two research projects under the 2014 Sustaining Health research call. The Sustaining Health call particularly aims to stimulate the formation of creative partnerships between disciplines because complex problems require a diversity of competencies to be tackled successfully.

**Projects**

**Sustainable and Healthy Diets in India (SAHDI)**

This project led by Dr Alan Dangour at LSHTM aims to provide a detailed picture of dietary habits and their associated greenhouse gas and water footprints in India. We are using existing dietary intake information from India (including from the Indian Migration Study) to identify distinct dietary patterns, and then calculating the associated greenhouse gas emissions using life-cycle analyses of the consumed foods. Water footprints of each diet will be assessed based on rain water and groundwater use for food production as well as waste water production. We will then consider whether the distinct diets identified can be modified to become healthier and more beneficial to the environment.
The appointed research fellow will spend 80% of their time working on the SAHDI project, largely working on modelling of dietary patterns and their associated greenhouse gas emissions, under the supervision of Dr Alan Dangour.

**Palm Oil: Sustainability, Health and Economics (POSHE)**
This project led by Professor Bhavani Shankar at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) and Professor Richard Smith at LSHTM investigates the nexus of the environment, economics and health associated with palm oil production and consumption in Thailand. Palm oil is widely used in processed foods in Thailand and its preservative and particular physical characteristics have made it a very popular and economically attractive oil for the food industry. However, these advantages are balanced by the negative health profile of palm oils that are rich in saturated fatty acids, and by the environmental effects of palm oil plantations. This project aims to gather the best information available about the environmental, economic and health effects of palm oil in Thailand and combine them in a model to examine policy-relevant trade-offs.

The appointed research fellow will spend 20% of their time working on the POSHE project, largely analysing dietary intake and nutritional data from Thailand, under the supervision of Dr Alan Dangour.

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

**Title:** Research Fellow Nutrition and Sustainability  
**Grade:** Academic Pathway Grade 6

The post-holder will support the two Wellcome Trust funded projects outlined above and in addition will be expected to play an active role in Departmental research and teaching activities.

The main duties of the post will include:

- Develop research objectives and proposals for own and joint research activities;  
- Conduct collaborative research projects using predominantly quantitative methods;  
- Write up research work for presentation and publication;  
- Continually update knowledge and understanding in field / specialism, and translate knowledge of advances in the subject areas into research activity;  
- Manage own research and administrative activities, with guidance as required;  
- Communicate material of a specialist or highly technical nature;  
- Liaise with colleagues and students;  
- Build internal and external contacts and participate in networks for the exchange of information and to form relationships for future collaboration;  
- Contribute to the School's postgraduate teaching programme;  
- Contribute to the general activities of LSHTM that help promote the objectives of LCIRAH and LSHTM.

**PERSON SPECIFICATION**

As Research Fellow in Nutrition and Sustainability, it is expected that the successful applicant will be a relatively independent researcher. They will be expected to be involved in the more precise specification of the work to be undertaken, and take a lead role in the
analysis, and publication of the work, and the submission of applications for further funding.

**Essential**
- A PhD in an appropriate discipline/subject (e.g., nutrition, epidemiology, public health, other quantitative social science);
- Experience of undertaking quantitative research including modelling such as random effects models, mixture modelling or optimisation modelling;
- Experience of working with cross-sectional or longitudinal nutrition datasets;
- Evidence of excellent writing and communication skills;
- Evidence of ability to work independently and as part of a team;
- Experience of conducting high quality literature reviews.

**Desirable**
- Experience in qualitative research;
- Experience of interaction with decision-makers and/or other research users;
- Experience of working in a multi-disciplinary setting;
- Experience in research in low- and middle-income country settings;
- Teaching experience.

**SALARY AND CONDITIONS OF APPOINTMENT**

The appointment is available from 1st April 2015 and is currently funded until 31 October 2016. The appointment will be made on LSHTM’s academic pathway salary scale (£37,106-£42,139) depending on qualifications and experience. The post will be subject to the LSHTM terms and conditions of service. Membership of the USS Pension Scheme is available.

**ASYLUM AND IMMIGRATION**

The School will comply with the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006, which requires all employees to provide documentary evidence of their legal right to work in this country prior to commencing employment. Candidates will be required to bring their passport (and visa if applicable) to interview so that it can be copied and verified.

For this vacancy, it is not likely that the School would be able to make a successful application for a Certificate of Sponsorship. For this type of post, it is unlikely that we would be able to appoint an individual who is not currently eligible to work in the UK. Further information about Certificate of Sponsorship and eligibility to work in the UK, can be found at: [www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/employers/points](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/employers/points)

**APPLICATIONS**

Applications should be made on-line at our website at [jobs.lshtm.ac.uk](http://jobs.lshtm.ac.uk). The closing date is **Thursday 9 April 2015** and the reference for this post is DPH01. Online applications will be accepted by the automated system until midnight on of the closing date. Any queries regarding the application process may be addressed to jobs@lshtm.ac.uk or telephone 0207 927 2201.

The supporting statement section should set out how your qualifications, experience and training meet **each** of the selection criteria. Please provide one or more paragraphs...
addressing each criterion. The supporting statement is an essential part of the selection process and thus a failure to provide this information will mean that the application will not be considered. An answer to any of the criteria such as “Please see attached CV” will not be considered acceptable.

An academic CV, list of publications and the names of three referees, who may be approached immediately, should also be included with the on-line application.

Please note that if you are shortlisted and are unable to attend on the interview date it may not be possible to offer you an alternative date.

Potential applicants for the post are strongly encouraged to discuss the position before applying with Dr Rosemary Green (Rosemary.Green@lshtm.ac.uk)

“The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine is committed to being an equal opportunities employer”