

RESEARCH ASSISTANT



Job Title:	Research Assistant
Department:	Global Health & Development
Faculty:	Public Health & Policy
Location:	London
FTE:	1.0
Grade:	Research Assistant Grade 5
Accountable to:	Dr Clare Tanton
Job Summary:	<p>We are seeking an early-career epidemiologist or social scientist to join the Child Protection Research Group at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. The postholder will work on a study examining the relationship between violence in childhood and work outcomes, and whether skills building programmes may help support young people in Uganda into decent work, as well as other epidemiological research on prevention of violence as directed by Dr Clare Tanton.</p> <p>The study is a collaboration between LSHTM, Makerere University, Uganda, and University College London. It is an evidence synthesis of international studies and data, as well as data from Uganda. The study works with ministry officials, a network of organisations involved in skills training and young people in Uganda to interpret the findings and shape the research. The postholder will be joining towards the end of the project, when research activities are being finalised and when the team are preparing to work with the project network on dissemination activities. The role will involve providing input into the research activities, which may include supporting literature reviews and data analysis, as well as providing overall project management and working closely with the team in the UK and Uganda to prepare for the project's dissemination activities.</p> <p>The post-holder should have an MSc in Epidemiology, Social Science, Public Health or closely-related discipline, with experience in project management. The post-holder will be a natural team-player with excellent communication, writing and interpersonal skills, and an interest in adolescent health and wellbeing and in dissemination of research findings to different audiences. The role is available immediately until the 30th November 2021.</p>

GENERAL INFORMATION

The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

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, the School has expanded in recent years at its two main sites on Keppel Street and Tavistock Place. Our staff, students and alumni work in more than 150 countries in government, academia, international agencies and health services.

Research income has grown to more than £180 million per year from national and international funding sources including UK government and research councils, the European Union, the

Wellcome Trust, Gates Foundation and other philanthropic sources.

Our diverse research talents, skills and experience, underpin our position as a leader in public and global health. These range from the molecular to the global, the theoretical to the applied, the analytical to the political. Our staff are conducting research in more than 100 countries.

We have 3,300 staff based all around the world with core hubs in London and at the MRC Units in The Gambia and Uganda, which joined LSHTM in February 2018. Our outstanding, diverse and committed staff make an impact where it is most needed - deploying research in real time in response to crises, developing innovative programmes for major health threats, or training the next generations of public and global health leaders and researchers.

Working in partnership is central to achieving our mission. Our strategic collaborations in the UK and across high-, middle- and low-income countries deliver health and socioeconomic benefits across the world, especially in the most disadvantaged communities.

LSHTM is also a member of the M8 Alliance of Academic Health Centers, Universities and National Academies, the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region, and the Consortium of Universities for Global Health.

We deliver research-led educational programmes to future health leaders, managers and researchers across the world. We have more than 1,200 face-to-face Master's and Doctoral students, 3,000 studying by distance learning, and 1,000 each year on short courses and continuous professional development. Our free online courses are studied by more than 70,000 participants globally.

LSHTM performs strongly in various global university league tables. In the 2019 CWTS Leiden Ranking LSHTM is ranked the UK's top university for the proportion of academic research with women listed as authors, first in Europe for publishing open access research, and first in Europe and eighth in the world for research impact in sciences (for the proportion of its total publications ranking in the top 10% of most cited research).

In the US News Best Global Universities Ranking 2019, we ranked ninth in the UK overall and 13th in the world in the fields of social sciences and public health. We ranked 27th for medicine in the 2019 QS World University Rankings.

In 2017, the inaugural Center for World University Rankings by Subject placed LSHTM first in the world for tropical medicine research, second for parasitology and seventh for infectious diseases, public, environment and occupational health, and social sciences and biomedical.

LSHTM was named University of the Year 2016 by Times Higher Education and awarded a Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education in 2017 in recognition of our response to the 2014 Ebola epidemic in West Africa. LSHTM does not appear in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings as universities are excluded if they do not teach undergraduates.

We seek to foster and sustain a creative and supportive working environment based upon an ethos of respect and rigorous scientific enquiry. We embrace and value the diversity of our staff and student population and seek to promote equality as an essential element in contribution to improving health worldwide.

LSHTM is one of around 20 specialist institutions that receive institution specific funding from the Office for Students (OfS). This funding recognises the additional costs that LSHTM incurs because of its unique range of teaching, specialist facilities, and the scale of its contributions to national and international agencies.

Faculty of Public Health and Policy

The School is divided into three academic faculties, of which the Faculty of Public Health & Policy is responsible for research and teaching in the policy, planning and evaluation of health programmes and services. Its interests are both national and international, encompassing industrialized and low and middle-income countries. The Faculty has three research departments:

- Global Health and Development
- Health Services Research and Policy
- Public Health, Environments and Society

In the Faculty there are about 50 Professional Services staff members, and 280 academic staff drawn from a variety of disciplines including medicine, statistics, epidemiology, sociology, economics, anthropology, operational research, psychology, nursing and history. Each department is responsible for its own research. The School has adopted a rotating system of management for its academic departments and faculties. The management of a department is under the control of the Department Head, appointed by the Director for a period of three years in the first instance. The Faculty Head is appointed in a similar manner but for an initial period of up to five years.

The Faculty of Public Health and Policy is responsible for organizing a one-year Master's course in Public Health, which allows students to take either a general MSc in Public Health, or to follow one of several more specialised streams: Health Services Management, Health Promotion, Environmental Health or Health Services Research. The Faculty also jointly teaches the MSc Public Health in Developing Countries and MSc Control of Infectious Disease (with the Faculties of Infectious and Tropical Diseases and Epidemiology and Population Health), and MSc Health Policy, Planning and Financing (jointly with the London School of Economics). Master's courses are organized in a modular format across the whole School. One of the growing areas of Faculty teaching is distance-based learning, with MScs in Public Health and Global Health Policy. In 2019/20, over 370 students were registered for our face-to-face Masters programmes and 1367 students were registered for distance learning MScs.

The Faculty has also reorganized and expanded its research degree (MPhil/PhD; DrPH) training. Currently there are about 164 students and 36 staff members registered for a research degree.

Department of Global Health and Development (GHD)

The department conducts novel and policy-relevant research and training that concerns health issues with a global reach, predominantly from the perspective of low- and middle-income country development. There are approximately 150 staff and 100 research degree students, with total grant funding of over £35m spread over a range of funders including research councils, UK and overseas charities, the European Union, Department for International Development and others. Academic Staff come from a wide range of disciplines including; economics, epidemiology, mathematics, law, politics, social policy and policy analysis, sociology and anthropology and are grouped into two units and a number of thematic research groups.

The Child Protection Research Group

The Child Protection Research Group is housed within GHD. We are a team focused on preventing and responding to violence in childhood and adolescence through rigorous academic research. We conduct research to understand the causes and consequences of violence; to develop, adapt and evaluate interventions to reduce violence; and to improve research methodology in the field of child protection. We are mainly social epidemiologists, but span a range of disciplines. We work closely with colleagues in social science and anthropology, medical statistics, economics and education. Many of our staff and collaborators are also affiliated with the Gender, Violence and Health Centre, the International Centre for Evidence in Disability, and the Centre for Global Mental Health.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT



The portfolio of duties outlined below will vary in accordance with the detailed expectations of the role (attached), which may be varied from time to time, and agreed at your annual Performance and Development Review (PDR).

JOB DESCRIPTION

Main Activities and Responsibilities

KNOWLEDGE GENERATION

1. To undertake high quality research as directed by your line manager, including contributing to drafting grant proposals and peer-reviewed and other outputs;
2. To support the administration of projects linked to your employment, helping ensure compliance with good practice in relation to the conduct of research, the ethics policy, and other relevant School policies;
3. To provide overall project support, organizing meetings, preparing minutes and following up with the team on deliverables
4. To support the team in preparing for activities with the project network and dissemination activities
5. To contribute to the development of dissemination materials including policy briefs, research priority statement
6. To contribute to the development of publications including through undertaking literature reviews and data analysis
7. To contribute to other similar projects, including testing of interventions to reduce violence against children in schools, as directed by Dr Clare Tanton

EDUCATION

1. To participate in some aspects of the School's Education Programme or educational outreach activities;

INTERNAL CONTRIBUTION

1. To undertake activities that support the Department, Faculty or the School;
2. To participate in the School's PDR process;

EXTERNAL CONTRIBUTION

1. To demonstrate good external citizenship by supporting the external academic and practice communities;

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING

1. To keep up-to-date with the latest research / thinking in your academic field and with changes to pedagogic practice within the School and more generally;
2. For lab-based disciplines: where the length and nature of the position permits, to apply for and, if accepted, undertake a doctoral degree (if not already acquired);
3. To undertake and successfully complete the mandatory training required by the School as appropriate to the role;

RESEARCH ASSISTANT



GENERAL

All academic staff are free within the law to question and test received wisdom, and put forward new ideas and controversial or unpopular opinions, to enable the School to engage in research and promote learning to the highest possible standards.

All staff at LSHTM are also expected to:

1. Act at all times in the School's best interests;
2. Treat School staff, students and visitors with courtesy and respect at all times;
3. Comply fully with School policies, procedures and administrative processes relevant to the role;
4. Uphold and support the School's values (as set out in the School Strategy document);
5. Act as ambassadors for the School when hosting visitors or attending external events;

The above list of duties is not exclusive or exhaustive and the role holder will be required to undertake such tasks as may reasonably be expected within the scope and grading of the role.

Role descriptions should be regularly reviewed to ensure they are an accurate representation of the role.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

This form lists the essential and desirable requirements needed by the post holder to be able to perform the job effectively.

Applicants will be shortlisted solely on the extent to which they meet these requirements.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. MSc degree in Epidemiology, Social Science, Public Health or similar either awarded or imminent or equivalent training.
2. Experience coordinating research projects, supporting research teams and contributing to preparation of academic publications.
3. Evidence of good organisational skills, including effective time management.
4. Proven ability to work independently, as well as collaboratively as part of a research team.
5. Evidence of excellent interpersonal skills, including the ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing
6. Proven ability in academic writing.
7. Proficiency in using Word, Excel and PowerPoint.
8. Knowledge of quantitative research methods and data analysis.
9. Experience working in low-income countries or on projects in low-income countries.
10. Interest in dissemination of research to different audiences.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA

1. Some experience of teaching
2. Experience working on adolescent health.
3. Knowledge of qualitative research methods and data analysis.
4. Experience developing dissemination materials and facilitating dissemination events.

SALARY AND CONDITIONS OF APPOINTMENT

The post is fixed term until 30th November 2021 at 1 FTE (full time). The salary will be on the Academic scale, Grade 5 scale in the range £34,854 - £40,011 (inclusive of London Weighting). The post will be subject to the LSHTM terms and conditions of service. Annual leave entitlement is 30 working days per year, pro rata for part time staff. In addition to this there are discretionary "Director's Days". Membership of the Pension Scheme is available.

Applications should be made on-line via our website at <http://jobs.lshtm.ac.uk>. Applications should also include the names and email contacts of 2 referees who can be contacted immediately if shortlisted. Online applications will be accepted by the automated system until 10pm of the closing date. Any queries regarding the application process may be addressed to jobs@lshtm.ac.uk. Please quote reference PHP-GHD-2021-14.

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. 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.

ASYLUM AND IMMIGRATION STATEMENT

The School will comply with current UKVI legislation, 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 email a copy of their passport (and visa if applicable) to HR prior to their interview and if appointed will be asked to bring the original documents in to be copied and verified before their start date.

Applications from candidates who require sponsorship to work in the UK will be considered alongside other applications. Applicants who do not currently have the right to work in the UK will have to satisfy UK Visas & Immigration regulations before they can be appointed.

Further information about Certificate of Sponsorship and eligibility to work in the UK, can be found at: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/employers/points

Date amended: AUG 2020

Academic Expectations: Research Assistant

Examples of expected types of activities are listed; the selection of activities will vary from year to year and not all activities in each category would necessarily be done in any one year. The statement in each shaded heading summarises the general expectations for contributions in each category. Given the nature of employment as a Research Assistant, it is expected that most activity will focus on knowledge generation, but some activity in other areas is desirable and will be required for career progression.

<i>Knowledge generation: High quality support for, and contribution to, research</i>
<i>Research and scholarship</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Undertaking research, as directed by line manager• Contributions to funding applications including supporting more senior staff in completing applications• Contributing to peer-reviewed outputs as expected by the subject area/discipline in terms of types of output• Poster/oral presentations at conferences• Social media contributions such as twitter, blogs, web-based media or webinars <i>Doctoral degree supervision</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None expected though involvement in advisory activities/roles or provision of practical skills training is encouraged where relevant <i>Research management, leadership and support</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Effective management of own time and activities• Supporting the administration of projects he/she is employed on, eg taking meeting minutes <i>Professional development</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appropriate courses and other development activities, referenced to RDF• Especially for lab-based disciplines: where the length, nature and funding source of the position permit, to apply for and, if accepted, undertake a doctoral degree (if not already acquired).
<i>Education: Participation in educational activities¹</i>
<i>Teaching and assessment</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited participation in some aspects of the School's Education Programme or education outreach activities e.g. contributions to taught courses, research methods training, mentoring school pupils on outreach programmes
<i>Educational development and innovation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited contributions to educational innovations or developments, e.g. helping to update the content or delivery of a course or module <i>Educational leadership and management</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None expected <i>Professional development</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Formal study/training and/or other activities that develop educational knowledge and expertise, referenced to UKPSF
<i>Internal contribution: Support to the academic environment in the Department or beyond</i>
<i>Internal citizenship</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supporting Department/Faculty/Centre/School events or special interest groups; organising seminars/lab meetings/journal clubs; group or departmental social organising; support to Athena Swan activities; support to external partnerships <i>General leadership and management roles</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None expected but credit can be given if undertaken

¹ it is accepted that some RA roles and/or funding make it difficult to give time to Educational activities, but some degree of engagement is encouraged

External contribution: Support to the external academic community

External citizenship

- Involvement in journal or book reviews, if opportunities arise
- Sharing examples of good practice (e.g. contributing to discipline-specific interest group or professional bodies)

Knowledge translation and enterprise: not expected but options include

- Collection of evidence of research impact for impact case studies (e.g. policy records, correspondence with policy makers, media highlights)
- Engagement with policy/practice/industry/NGO communities and with the general public