Assistant Professor in Social Science

FURTHER PARTICULARS

We are looking for an experienced public health researcher with expertise in social science and qualitative methodologies to lead an ongoing programme of research exploring influences on public health practitioners’ involvement in alcohol licensing processes in local authority settings in England.

The post will be based within a team funded by the NIHR School for Public Health Research. Launched in April 2012, the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) School for Public Health Research (SPHR) is a collaboration between eight leading academic centres with excellence in applied public health research in England. These include: the Universities of Sheffield, Bristol, Cambridge, Exeter and UCL; SPHR@L (LSHTM); the LiLaC collaboration (Universities of Liverpool and Lancaster); FUSE: Centre for Translational Research in Public Health (collaboration between Newcastle, Durham, Northumbria, Sunderland and Teesside universities); and Imperial College London.

The NIHR SPHR will aim to increase the evidence base for effective public health practice by:

- Conducting research to increase the volume and quality of applied public health research and evidence, including evaluations and;
- Creating an environment where first class applied public health research, focused on the needs of the public, can be developed

The focus of research within the School for Public Health Research team @ LSHTM (SPHR@L) is to engage with local government and third sector stakeholders in the production of new evaluative research focused on their evidence needs and appropriate to their decision making processes to support action on the social determinants of health. For more information on our research please look at our website (http://sphr.lshtm.ac.uk/)

The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (www.lshtm.ac.uk) is one of Europe’s leading schools of Public Health and a leading postgraduate institution worldwide for research and postgraduate education in global health.

Part of the University of London, the London School is the largest institution of its kind in Europe with a remarkable depth and breadth of expertise encompassing many disciplines. The School was ranked one of the top 3 research institutions in the country in the Times Higher Education’s ‘table of excellence’, which is based on the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). In 2009, the School became the first UK institution to win the Gates Award for Global Health.
The School’s environment is a rich multicultural one: there are almost 4000 students from 100+ countries following 22 taught masters courses delivered either in London (~650) or through distance learning (~2700), and undertaking research degree training (~400). Over 40% of these students are from non-European countries. The largest growth has been in distance learning students (>40% over 3 years), though the London-based student population (where accommodation limits growth) is at its highest level ever. Alumni are working in more than 180 countries. The School has about 1500 staff drawn from over 60 nationalities.

There are research collaborations with over 100 countries throughout the world, utilizing our critical mass of multidisciplinary expertise which includes clinicians, epidemiologists, statisticians, social scientists, economists, molecular biologists, immunologists, ophthalmologists, anthropologists, virologists, pharmacologists and nutritionists. At any one time around 100 School staff are based overseas, particularly in Africa and Asia. We have a strong commitment to partnership with institutions in low and middle income countries to support the development of teaching and research capacity.

The School has expanded greatly in recent years. Its research funding now exceeds £100M per annum, much of it from highly competitive national and international sources. The commitment of staff to methodological rigour, innovative thinking and policy relevance will ensure that the School continues to occupy a leadership position in national and global health, adapting quickly to new challenges and opportunities.

Mission

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.

Organisation and Management

There are three academic faculties, one principally concerned with infectious and tropical diseases and two with public health (Faculty of Epidemiology & Population Health; and the Faculty of Public Health & Policy).

Faculty of Public Health and Policy

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 less developed countries. The Faculty has three research departments:

- Health Services Research and Policy
- Global Health and Development, and
- Social and Environmental Health Research

Each Department is multidisciplinary containing about 50 - 70 academic staff representing medicine, statistics, epidemiology, sociology, economics, anthropology, operational research, psychology, nursing and history.

Teaching

The Faculty of Public Health and Policy is responsible for organizing a programme of Master’s degrees in Public Health, which allows students to take a general MSc in Public Health, or to follow one of the following streams: Health Services Management, Health Promotion, Environmental Health, Economics or Health Services Research. The Faculty also jointly teaches 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. Master’s courses are organized in a
modular format across the whole School. One of the growing areas of Faculty teaching is in the distance-based MSc in Public Health, introduced in 2005/6. The Faculty also supervises over one hundred research degree students (MPhil/PhD; DrPH).

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

**Post:** Assistant Professor in Social Science

**Department:** Department of Health Services Research & Policy

**Responsible to:** Professor Karen Lock

The role holder will be responsible for leading the design, planning and delivery of an ongoing project evaluating the use of a tool to assist public health practitioners’ contributions to licensing decision-making in Local Authority settings. The project also explores wider influences on practitioners’ involvement in alcohol licensing processes.

The role sits within the NIHR-funded School for Public Health Research (SPHR) at LSHTM, and the post holder will be expected to engage with broader planning of research within the SPHR (at LSHTM and in the wider network), around themes of alcohol and local government policy.

**Main Duties and Responsibilities:**

**Research and Knowledge Generation**

1. Design and develop research protocols, methodologies and tools for a mixed methods study of the influences on public health practitioners’ involvement with alcohol licensing processes in local authority settings, and evaluation of the use of the Public Health Alcohol Licensing Guidance (PHALG) tool.
2. Lead on the delivery of the study, including ethnographic fieldwork in local authority settings, qualitative data collection including interviews and observations, management of the collection of a practitioner survey and routine Local Authority quantitative data.
3. Lead on the analysis and interpretation of qualitative data produced through the study,
4. Lead the quantitative analysis and the integration of qualitative and quantitative findings.
5. Identify and develop suitable outputs from the study, for different kinds of audiences (practitioner and academic), and lead on the writing and dissemination of these outputs through appropriate channels, including high-impact journals, professional networks, and academic and practitioner conferences / professional meetings.
6. Contribute to the identification of potential funding sources to extend and develop further the programme of research, and contribute to the writing and submission of grant applications for related work.

**Management**

7. Undertake line management of at least one research assistant working on the project. To develop and oversee their role in conducting data collection for the study, and support them in contributing to analysis and written outputs.
8. Manage the development of skills and support career progression of the research assistant.
9. Contribute to management of the overall programme of work, including monitoring of the quality and timely completion of study objectives, budget and resource management, collaboration agreements and contracts, and regular reporting to funders and other stakeholders.
Communication

10. Lead on engagement with internal and external study collaborators (including Local Authority and Third Sector partners), ensuring regular communication on study progress, and facilitating discussion and interpretation of study results and outputs.
11. Be responsible for the regular communication of study progress and outputs to internal and external stakeholders, including the SPHR group at LSHTM and the wider NIHR SPHR network, departmental and faculty colleagues, and wider professional contacts and networks.
12. Contribute to methodological, disciplinary and topic-based discussions internally and externally to develop further expertise, understanding and engagement with the wider research context, and to maintain and develop networks.

Teaching and Development

13. Contribute to teaching in the Faculty (minimum 15% of working time), including contributing to taught MSc modules, acting as a tutor to MSc students, and contributing to marking and assessment development as appropriate.
14. Contribute to the design, development and/or oversight of one MSc module as a Module Co-Organiser.
15. Contribute to the supervision of research degree students, for example as a member of advisory committees or as co-supervisor as appropriate.
16. Contribute to wider development of teaching in the Faculty, for example through sitting on the MSc Public Health course committee.
17. Conduct training activities to further develop teaching skills, for example through the PGCILT scheme.

Wider Professional Activities

18. Contribute to broader professional activities within the School for example through sitting on School-wide committees such as the public engagement committee.
19. Contribute externally to wider professional networks for example through engagement with professional associations, peer review processes, or supporting the organisation of conferences / meetings.
20. Liaise with research collaborators in other institutions related to the NIHR School for Public Health programme, including attending meetings and presenting study methods and findings where appropriate.

Person Specification

Essential criteria:

1. PhD in public health or similar
2. Undergraduate degree in a social science discipline
3. Excellent written and spoken English
4. In depth understanding, and experience, of mixed-method evaluation of public health interventions
5. Expertise in analysing data from multiple qualitative methodologies, including ethnography and in-depth interviews
6. Experience of conducting qualitative public health research in UK Local Government settings
7. Experience of co-producing research with public health practitioners and third sector organisations
8. Knowledge of key literature and theories around public health evaluation, including evaluation of ‘complex interventions’ and systems theories, and experience of applying this knowledge to public health research
9. Track record of planning, managing and delivering research project outputs on time and on budget
10. Track record of publishing high quality research, as lead author, in public health and social science journals
11. Experience of developing and disseminating research outputs for non-academic audiences
12. Experience of teaching Masters students in public health

Desirable criteria:

1. Experience of developing and managing relationships with external and non-academic study collaborators including practitioners and communities
2. Knowledge of alcohol licensing processes in local authorities in England, and of the role of public health in these processes
3. Experience of managing research assistants or other staff members in delivering research
4. Experience of developing successful applications for funding for research or other academic activities

Salary and conditions of appointment

This appointment will be full-time and will commence from 1st April 2017 for a 12-month period, and will be based in LSHTM’s Tavistock Place campus. Salary will be on LSHTM’s Academic Pathway grade 7, £44,226 - £50,629 per annum, including 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.

ASYLUM AND IMMIGRATION POLICY

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.

This role does not meet the minimum requirements set by UK Visas and Immigration to enable sponsorship of migrant workers. Therefore, we cannot progress applications from candidates who require sponsorship 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