

RESEARCH ASSISTANT



Job Title:	Research Assistant
Department:	IDE
Faculty:	EPH
Location:	UK
FTE:	1.0
Grade:	G5
Accountable to:	Prof. Elizabeth Brickley
Job Summary:	<p>The Health Equity Action Lab (www.healthequityactionlab.org) in the Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology is seeking a Research Assistant to join our diverse international team and make valued contributions to the LIFE Zika Study (Long-term Impacts for Families affected by the Epidemic of Zika Study).</p> <p>Zika virus infections during pregnancy can be transmitted across the placenta, disrupting fetal development and leading to structural anomalies and neurologic impairments collectively recognized as Congenital Zika Syndrome. While Zika virus transmission has waned globally, the devastating health and social consequences of the 2015-2017 pandemic endure for children with Congenital Zika Syndrome and their families. The LIFE Zika Study provides a singular opportunity to define the clinical spectrum of Congenital Zika Syndrome in later childhood and to inform clinical decision-making and public policies (e.g., prenatal screening, educational adaptations, and social protection) related to Zika virus infections during pregnancy.</p> <p>This Research Assistant post will use social science methods to answer critical questions about the children's health and learning needs, to improve understanding of the long-term impacts for affected children's families, and to investigate how we can better engage affected communities and individuals in the research process.</p> <p>The successful applicant will have an awarded MSc degree (or equivalent) in a multidisciplinary public health course (e.g., Control of Infectious Diseases, Epidemiology, or Public Health) and relevant experience in epidemiology, statistical methods and qualitative research. This role will require the postholder to spend prolonged periods of time in Northeastern Brazil and, therefore, fluency in written and spoken Brazilian Portuguese is required. It is also essential that the candidate has lived or professional experience in engaging with low-income communities in Brazil and is willing to work in a range of settings, including favelas. The post will require a high degree of personal motivation and a commitment to co-production, collaboration, equity, diversity, and inclusion.</p>

General Information

The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) is renowned for its research, postgraduate studies and continuing 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.

We embrace and value the diversity of our staff and student population and seek to promote equity, diversity and inclusion as essential elements in contribution to improving health worldwide. We believe that when people feel respected and included, they can be more creative, successful, and happier at work. While we have more work to do, we are committed to building an inclusive workplace, a community that everyone feels a part of, which is safe, respectful, supportive and enables all to reach their full potential.

To discover more about LSHTM please click [here](#).

Our Values

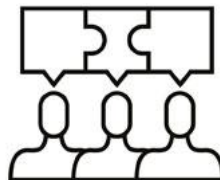
Our values establish how we aspire to achieve our mission both now and in the future - demonstrating what it means to work and study at LSHTM. To find out more please click [here](#).



**Act with
integrity**



**Embrace
difference**



**Work
together**



**Create
impact**

Faculty Information

The Faculty of Epidemiology & Population Health (EPH) houses a large group of epidemiologists, demographers, statisticians and nutritionists working on issues of major public health importance in the UK and globally. EPH has approximately 400 staff members organised into four research departments.

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

The Faculty has a teaching programme consisting of ten MSc courses: Epidemiology, Demography and Health, Medical Statistics, Public Health for Development (run jointly with the Faculties of Infectious & Tropical Diseases and Public Health & Policy), Nutrition for Global Health, Reproductive & Sexual Health Research, Veterinary Epidemiology (run jointly with the Royal Veterinary College), Global Mental Health (run jointly with Kings College London - Institute of Psychiatry) and the Distance Learning courses in Epidemiology, Clinical Trials and Demography in Health. The Faculty also has approximately 120 research students studying for an MPhil, PhD or DrPH degree.

The Dean of Faculty is Professor Elizabeth Allen.

Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology (IDE)

The Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology conducts research on the epidemiology and control of infectious diseases of public health importance. Work is carried out in low-, middle- and high-income countries, including the United Kingdom, in close collaboration with partners in each country. The Department has groups working on maternal, neonatal and child health; international statistics and epidemiology; vaccines, outbreaks and humanitarian crises; and modelling. Research methods include ecological studies of variations in disease frequency in different populations, observational case-control and cohort studies to define risk factors for disease, randomized controlled trials to evaluate the effectiveness of individual- and community-level interventions, and mathematical models to project the impact of public health interventions.

The Department Head is Professor Mark Jit.

Health Equity Action Lab (HEAL)

Established in 2017, the Health Equity Action Lab (www.healthequityactionlab.org), is an interdisciplinary team conducting policy-relevant community-engaged research that critically examines the links between human health, poverty, and the environment.

The Director of the Health Equity Action Lab is Professor Elizabeth Brickley.

The portfolio of duties outlined below will vary in accordance with the academic expectations of the role, 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, and evaluating teaching practice;
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 LSHTM policies;
3. To work with the PIs and the project teams to assist with the completion of deliverables including progress reports, research briefs, publications and PowerPoint presentations; To attend online or in-person LIFE Zika study and project meetings and keep track of deliverables;

Education

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

Internal Contribution

1. To undertake activities that support the Department, Faculty, MRC Unit or LSHTM;
2. To reflect LSHTM's EDI goals in your work and behaviour;
3. To participate in LSHTM's PDR process;
4. To engage with internal groups in LSHTM working on co-production and enhanced qualitative research methods;

External Contribution

1. To demonstrate good external citizenship by supporting the external academic and practice communities;
2. To support the collaborative research links between LSHTM and the partners in Brazil;

Professional Development and Training

1. To keep up-to-date with the latest research / thinking in your academic field and with changes to pedagogic practice within LSHTM 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

LSHTM as appropriate to the role;

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 LSHTM 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 LSHTM's best interests;
2. Treat staff, students and visitors with courtesy and respect at all times;
3. Comply fully with LSHTM policies, procedures and administrative processes relevant to the role;
4. Uphold and support LSHTM's values (as set out in the LSHTM Strategy);
5. Act as ambassadors for LSHTM when hosting visitors or attending external events;
6. Contribute to a positive research environment between the School, research partners in Brazil, and the families and children with whom we are working.

Academic Expectations

All academic roles have a statement of academic expectations attached to each level. Please ensure that these have been read and understood. The academic expectations can be found [here](#).

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. An awarded MSc degree (or equivalent) in a multidisciplinary public health course (e.g., Control of Infectious Diseases, Epidemiology, or Public Health).
2. Relevant lived or professional experience in engaging with low-income communities in Brazil; willingness to work in a range of settings, including favelas.
3. Relevant analytical skills in qualitative, quantitative and statistical methods.
4. Evidence of good organisational skills, including effective time management.
5. Proven ability to work independently, as well as collaboratively, as part of a research team.
6. Evidence of excellent interpersonal skills, including the ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing.
7. A high degree of motivation to support the collaborative links between researchers in Brazil and UK as well as to work closely with affected communities, families, and individuals in the research setting.
8. Proven experience of ability to synthesis research information for a range of audiences (e.g., academic, governmental, and public).
9. Demonstrable evidence of commitment to co-production, equity, diversity, and inclusion and knowledge related to decolonising global public health research and practice.
10. Fluent written and spoken Portuguese (Brazilian) and English (UK).
11. Ability to spend prolonged periods of time based in Recife, Brazil.

Desirable Criteria

12. Some experience of teaching
13. Experience with academic research and publication preparation in the UK and Brazilian contexts and familiarity with the relevant academic institutions (LSHTM, Fiocruz, UPE, UFPE) and how they work both in the UK and Brazil.

Salary and Conditions of Appointment

The post is fixed term until 30 September 2026 and full-time 35 hours per week, 1.0 FTE. The post is funded by the Wellcome Trust and is available from 1 October 2023. The salary will be on the Academic scale, Grade 5 scale at £37,531 per annum, pro rata (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 "Wellbeing Days". Membership of the Pension Scheme is available.

LSHTM has a Hybrid Working Framework, which alongside agreed service requirements, enables teams to work more flexibly (if the role allows), promoting a greater wellbeing and work/life balance.

Application Process

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 appointed. Online applications will be accepted by the automated system until 10pm of the closing date. We regret that late applications cannot be accepted. Any queries regarding the application process may be addressed to jobs@lshtm.ac.uk.

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", "Yes" or "No" will not be considered acceptable and will not be scored.

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

LSHTM 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 Sponsorship and eligibility to work in the UK, can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-skilled-worker>

Date amended: May 2023

