

# RESEARCH ASSISTANT

<b>Job Title:</b>	<b>Research Assistant</b>
<b>Department:</b>	Global Health and Development
<b>Faculty:</b>	Public Health and Policy
<b>Location:</b>	Senegal
<b>FTE:</b>	100% FTE (5 days/week)
<b>Grade:</b>	Grade 5
<b>Accountable to:</b>	Principal Investigator (PI) Josephine Borghi and line manager
<b>Job Summary:</b>	<p>This is an exciting opportunity for a quantitative social scientist/health economist to join the LSHTM. The ideal candidate will have the following strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Strong quantitative skills</li> <li>(ii) Ability to analyse and interpret large datasets</li> <li>(iii) Understanding of global aid architecture and country level health financing arrangements</li> <li>(iv) Skills building capacity in relation to health financing</li> <li>(v) Ability to liaise with stakeholders in government and donor agencies.</li> </ul> <p>The postholder will be working on two related projects FINDAC and FINTRACK. FINDAC aims to assess levels and trends in aid for reproductive, maternal newborn and child health (RMNCH) and health financing equity and efficiency at country level. FINDAC produces annual estimates of aid for RMNCH for all countries globally. It also supports countries with analysis of health financing data. The FINTRACK project aims to assess whether and how COVID-19 has affected progress in health financing for universal health coverage (UHC), in terms of health financing arrangements, efficiency, equity and UHC goals in five African countries: Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Senegal and Sierra Leone.</p> <p><b>The post holder will be based in Senegal.</b></p>

## General Information

The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) is one of the world's leading public health universities.

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.

Staff and students are committed to helping create a more healthy, sustainable and equitable world for everyone, because we believe our shared future depends on our shared health.

We embrace and value the diversity of our staff and student population and seek to promote equity, diversity and inclusion as essential elements to improve 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 find out more please visit our [Introducing LSHTM page](#).

## Our Values

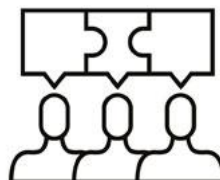
Our values establish how we aspire to achieve our mission both now and in the future - demonstrating what it means to work and study at LSHTM. Please visit our [LSHTM Values page](#) for further information.



**Act with  
integrity**



**Embrace  
difference**



**Work  
together**



**Create  
impact**

# Faculty Information

## The Faculty of Public Health and Policy (PHP)

The Faculty of Public Health and Policy (PHP) aims to improve health in the UK and worldwide. We do this through research, teaching and consultancy in the areas of health policy, health systems and services, and public health. We run a range of popular and respected MSc courses, research degrees, short courses and CPD.

The faculty has over 250 academic staff and 250 doctoral students. We are the largest multi-disciplinary public health group in Europe, and one of the largest groups world-wide of social scientists working on health. We use multidisciplinary and multi-method approaches to generate new knowledge to improve health in specific contexts and inform transferability of approaches across contexts. We engage with people, policymakers and service providers to ensure our research is inclusive, relevant, and informs policy and practice.

Our research, teaching and consultancy are inter-disciplinary, encompassing anthropology, economics, epidemiology, geography, history, international relations, mathematics political science, psychology, public health medicine, sociology and statistics.

The faculty is fully committed to the Athena SWAN Charter and holds a silver award. PHP is comprised made up of three departments:

- Department of Global Health and Development which focuses on health policy and systems research, economic evaluation, gender violence and violence in childhood, and medical humanitarianism, all primarily in low and middle income settings.
- Department of Health Services, Research and Policy which focuses on improving the quality, organisation and management of health services and systems.
- Department of Public Health, Environments and Society which focuses on the social and environmental influences on health and how these are addressed.

## Department of Global Health and Development (GHD)

The Department of Global Health and Development (GHD) focuses on novel and policy-relevant research and training that concerns health issues with a global reach, predominantly from the perspective of lower- and middle-income countries. Our work spans health policy and systems research, economic evaluation, anthropological approaches to global health, gender violence and violence in childhood, and medical humanitarianism (see the links below to our research groups).

GHD comprises over 130 staff, from a wide range of disciplines including economics, anthropology, epidemiology, mathematics, law, sociology, international relations, social policy and policy analysis. We take a highly multidisciplinary approach, and emphasise the development of long-term collaborative partnerships with research groups in lower and middle-income countries. We offer a vibrant and diverse research degree programme, with over 100 PhD and DrPH students from more than 40 countries, and contribute to the many Master's programmes on public health at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

The journal Health Policy and Planning is edited by department members (currently Virginia Wiseman). The journal publishes research on health policy and systems in low- and middle-income countries and provides an international forum for original and high-quality research that addresses questions pertinent to policy-makers, public health

researchers and practitioners.

## **The Global Health Economics Centre (GHECO)**

The Global Health Economics Centre acts as the central body for staff and students across the School who study or apply health economics. The Centre's vision is forward-looking and emphasises cutting edge methodological development, rigorous empirical research, and working alongside policy and decision-makers to achieve policy impact. We seek to improve collaborations among economists and researchers in other disciplines at LSHTM and with research groups and policymakers in the UK and around the world. Centre members' expertise places them at the forefront in building the capacity of health economists and their policy communities – and embracing respectful collaborations worldwide.

### **The FINDAC project**

FINDAC runs over 25 months. The project has a number of objectives including:

#### **1) Cross country analysis of aid for RMNCH**

- generating annual updates of the Muskoka2 global data from the OECD's Creditor Reporting System (CRS) enabling the tracking of aid to reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health (RMNCH).
- Examine RMNCH financing across countries from all sources using GHED and Muskoka2
- Undertaking an indepth analysis of aid for family planning and childhood immunisation
- Preparing a written manual guiding country analysts in accessing and using the Muskoka2 and GHED data to analyse trends in RMNCH aid.

#### **2) Capacity building and support for country level analysis of financing equity and efficiency including at the subnational level**

#### **3) Representing the Data Analysis Centre at Countdown events**

The project also involves working closely with other members of the FINDAC team based in London and Tanzania, and may involve travel to these countries.

### **The FINTRACK project**

The FINTRACK project runs over 22 months, involving one partner, the Ifakara Health Institute in Tanzania. The project has a number of objectives including:

1. Examining whether there is evidence of changes in health funding levels and sources since COVID-19 and of a displacement of funds away from RMNCH towards infectious diseases
2. Exploring trends in the alignment and harmonisation of aid for health, RMNCH and infectious diseases to determine eventual changes since COVID-19
3. Describing the levels and trends in subnational health funding levels by source
4. Measuring trends in efficiency of health financing in relation to UHC outputs at the subnational level and drivers of efficiency
5. Assessing trends in equity of health financing allocations across subnational units in relation to economic and health need
6. Exploring the relationship between efficiency and the UHC service coverage and financial protection goals

The project also involves working closely with teams in Zambia, Tanzania, Malawi, Sierra Leone and Senegal, and running two capacity building workshops, one in East Africa and one in West Africa.

The post is based in Senegal, but will require travel to London and Tanzania.

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 contribute to reporting and deliverables for the FINDAC and FINTRACK projects.

#### **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;

#### **External Contribution**

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

#### **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;

## Academic Expectations

All academic roles have a statement of academic expectations attached to each level. Please ensure that these have been read and understood. For further information please refer to the [Academic Expectations page](#).

*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. A first degree and masters in economics, econometrics, or similar.
2. Relevant experience engaging with government and donor agencies regarding health financing policy and research in Sub-Saharan Africa, preferably francophone West Africa
3. Relevant quantitative analytical skills in health economics/econometrics.
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 in English.
7. Experience training/building capacity of policy makers/researchers at country level
8. Ability to analyse large datasets using excel pivot tables and Stata/R.
9. Understanding of the global aid architecture and health financing arrangements within West African countries
10. Fluency in French, including the ability to deliver training, participate in meetings with senior stakeholders, and produce and review written reports.

### Desirable Criteria

11. Some experience of teaching
12. Doctoral degree in a relevant subject



## Salary and Conditions of Appointment

The post is fixed term until 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025 and full-time 35 hours per week, 1 FTE. The post is funded by grants from UNICEF and ESRC and is available from 01<sup>st</sup> February 2024. The salary will be on the Academic scale, Grade 5 scale in the range £38,282 - £43,947 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 [jobs website](#). 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](mailto: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

This post is based overseas and 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 send a notarised copy of their passport prior to their start date.

Applicants will be required to have the right to work in the country in which the post is based (or be eligible to apply for a suitable work visa).

Date amended: Jan 2024