

# RESEARCH ASSISTANT



<b>Job Title:</b>	<b>Research Assistant</b>
<b>Department:</b>	Department of Population Health
<b>Faculty:</b>	Epidemiology & Population Health
<b>Location:</b>	Keppel Street, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
<b>FTE:</b>	1.0
<b>Grade:</b>	G5
<b>Accountable to:</b>	Head of Department through Thalia Sparling
<b>Job Summary:</b>	The purpose of the position is to support the work of IMMANA and the ANH Academy, by undertaking analysis and synthesis of research in agriculture and food systems for improved nutrition. Duties will include identifying and researching issues of current or potential interest to IMMANA and the ANH Academy, producing critical analyses and summaries, working on systematic reviews and drafting and disseminating various types of research documents. The job will involve close collaboration with research groups across national and international programmes, monitoring and summarising new developments in the field.

## 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

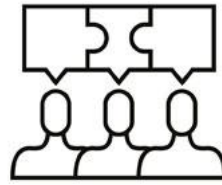
Our values establish how we aspire to achieve our mission both now and in the future - demonstrating what it means to work and study at LSHTM. Please visit our [LSHTM Values page](#) for further information.



**Act with  
integrity**



**Embrace  
difference**



**Work  
together**



**Create  
impact**

## Faculty Information

The Faculty of Epidemiology & Population Health (EPH) houses a large group of epidemiologists, demographers, statisticians and nutritionists working on major issues of importance to public health provision in the UK and globally. EPH employs approximately 560 people in five research departments.

- Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology & Dynamics
- Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology & International Health
- Department of Medical Statistics, which includes the Clinical Trials Unit
- Department of Non-communicable Disease Epidemiology
- Department of Population Health

The Faculty has a postgraduate teaching programme including eleven intensive MSc courses: Epidemiology, Demography and Health, Medical Statistics, Health Data Science, Public Health for Development (jointly with Faculties of Infectious & Tropical Diseases and Public Health & Policy), Nutrition for Global Health, Global Mental Health (jointly with Kings College London, Institute of Psychiatry), Reproductive & Sexual Health Research, Sexual & Reproductive Health Policy and Practice (online), Veterinary Epidemiology (run jointly with the Royal Veterinary College) and Climate Change and Planetary Health. There are also three distance Learning MSc courses: 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 Population Health

The Department of Population Health aims to bring important benefits to global population health and health equity by generating, evaluating and disseminating effective interventions, treatments and policies. It is a centre of excellence in the determinants and consequences of population change. Our research involves epidemiology, drug trials, complex intervention development and trials, demography, research on the mechanisms of disease, treatments and interventions, qualitative research and systematic reviews of evidence, and evidence to improve the health and wellbeing of people with disabilities globally. We work on some of the largest public health issues in the world including: climate change and planetary health, Covid-19, demography, emergency care, global mental health, maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH), nutrition, non-communicable disease and sexual and reproductive health (SRH). The Department of Population Health has strong links with the Malawi Epidemiology and Intervention Research Unit (MEIRU), the MRC unit the Gambia, international agencies and a large network of overseas research collaborators. The Head of Department is Professor Suneetha Kadiyala.

## Background: About IMMANA

The [Innovative Methods and Metrics for Agriculture and Nutrition Actions \(IMMANA\)](#) programme aims to accelerate the development of a robust and coherent scientific evidence base which will support effective policy and investments in agriculture-food systems for improved nutrition. It is led by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in partnership with Tufts University and the University of Sheffield. IMMANA phase 2 is a five-year programme is funded by UK Aid through the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Foundation (FCDO) and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF).

Following a successful Phase one programme, IMMANA has an expanded programme of work which sets out to consolidate its achievements during the first phase.

The objectives of the second phase of IMMANA are to:

- Stimulate validation and continued development of innovative methodological approaches and novel metrics in agriculture and food systems for improved health and nutrition.
- Deepen and expand the pool of emerging leaders skilled in developing and applying cutting-edge methods and metrics.
- Convene a global research network - the Agriculture, Nutrition and Health (ANH) Academy - to facilitate learning, sharing and catalysing new interdisciplinary research collaborations and policy uptake of emerging evidence.
- Synthesise and facilitate the uptake of existing data and scientific evidence to inform policies and investments in agriculture and food systems for improved nutrition and health.

IMMANA rests on the core pillars of research, capacity building and knowledge sharing, and consists of three synergistic **workstreams**:

- [IMMANA Competitive Research Grants](#) to develop new and validate existing methods and metrics at the nexus of agriculture-food systems, nutrition and health (ANH)
- [IMMANA Fellowships](#) for emerging leaders in ANH research
- [ANH Academy](#), with an expanded set of activities including:
  - A [Support Centre for Agriculture and Nutrition Research](#) (SCANR)
  - [Strengthening the capacity](#) of academic institutions to offer curriculum enrichment opportunities on ANH related topics in Africa and South Asia
  - A [mentoring scheme](#) for early career researchers in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)
  - Continuation of [ANH Academy Weeks](#) and other online training and engagement activities.

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 support the IMMANA research team/ANH Academy Support Centre for Agriculture-Nutrition Research (SCANR) to produce leading epidemiological and statistical analysis on research topics defined by the core IMMANA research team, especially related to tools, methods and metrics in agriculture, nutrition and health.
4. To support the research team with technical capacity and learning, both within the team and the ANH Academy.

#### **Education**

1. To participate in some aspects of LSHTM's Education Programme or educational outreach activities;
2. To contribute to the design and delivery of programme wide education initiatives, including the ANH Academy Training of Trainers activity and Learning Labs at ANH Academy Weeks.

#### **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;
2. To participate and contribute to the annual ANH Academy Week
3. To participate in supporting ANH Academy events and partnership initiatives, including learning and dissemination events.

## 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 relevant first degree in the field of Public Health Nutrition, Public Health or a related field (as geospatial sciences, data science, statistics).
2. Relevant experience and proven ability to conduct quantitative analysis, ideally using data from trials or using complex data from multiple sources to answer questions relevant to food systems, nutrition and health
3. Relevant computer and analytical skills such as R, Stata
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. Understanding of key concepts, methods and tools used for researching food systems, nutrition and health linkages.

### Desirable Criteria

8. Some experience of teaching
9. Experience in conducting systematic reviews and meta-analyses (including PRISMA guidelines and PROSPERO)
10. Demonstrable experience of managing reviews using database software such as Eppi Reviewer or Coevidence.
11. Knowledge of machine learning, Chat GPT or other AI software

## Salary and Conditions of Appointment

The post is fixed term until 31 January 2026 and full-time, 35 hours a week, 1.0 FTE. The post is co-funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and is available from 01 June 2024. The salary will be on the Academic scale, Grade 5 scale in the range £38,292 - £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

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 but due to the salary range for this role not meeting the general salary threshold, only applicants under certain circumstances may qualify for sponsorship for this role. Please refer to the details on the Skilled Worker visa pages to check if you are able to be paid below the [general threshold](#). Please indicate this in your application and proceed if you are able to meet the requirements.



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 on the [government immigration rules page](#).

Date amended: Jan 2024