

RESEARCH FELLOW



Job Title:	Research Fellow
Department:	Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Dynamics
Faculty:	Epidemiology and Population Health
Location:	Keppel Street, London
FTE:	1.0
Grade:	G6
Accountable to:	Head of Department through Principal Investigator (Dr Kaja Abbas)
Job Summary:	<p>The OptiMAX project is focused on integrated nutritional activities to increase immunisation coverage and aims to assess the potential impact of jointly programming monthly supplementation with small-quantity lipid based nutrient supplements (SQ-LNS) with immunisation services in Chad and Niger. LSHTM is a partner in this project funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The post-holder will be responsible for bringing forward an innovative programme of work to investigate the impact of the OptiMAX programme through mixed-methods process evaluation, infectious disease modelling, health economic analysis, and gender analysis.</p> <p>The work is done in close partnership with ALIMA (The Alliance for International Medical Action). The post-holder will also have the opportunity to affiliate with relevant transdisciplinary Centres at LSHTM, including the Centre for Mathematical Modelling of Infectious Diseases, Vaccine Centre, Global Health Economics Centre and the Centre for Evaluation.</p> <p>The project outcomes include new knowledge generation on the bidirectional relationship between vaccine-preventable diseases and malnutrition and supportive evidence for potential scale up of integrated nutritional and immunisation programmes in low- and middle-income countries.</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

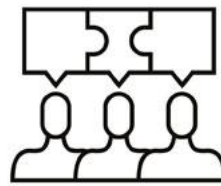
Our values establish how we aspire to achieve our mission both now and in the future - demonstrating what it means to work and study at LSHTM. Please visit our [LSHTM Values page](#) for further information.



**Act with
integrity**



**Embrace
difference**



**Work
together**



**Create
impact**

Faculty Information

The Faculty of 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 two Distance Learning MSc courses: Epidemiology and Clinical Trials. The Faculty also has approximately 220 research students studying for an MPhil, PhD or DrPH degree.

The Dean of Faculty is Professor Elizabeth Allen.

Department Information

The **Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Dynamics (IDED)** 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 three groups:

- The infectious disease modelling group, which is linked to the [Centre for Mathematical Modelling of Infectious Diseases \(CMMID\)](#).
- The [UK Public Health Rapid Support Team](#), a specialist multidisciplinary team across LSHTM and the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) that offers low and middle income countries around the world support to prepare for and respond to disease outbreaks, through field collaboration, research and capacity-strengthening activities.
- The [Vaccine Confidence Project](#), which conducts global research, investigating the roots, trends over time and impacts of vaccine confidence at regional, national and sub-national levels.

The Department works closely with the Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology & International Health.

The Department co-Heads are Professor Gwenda Hughes and Dr Oliver Brady.

Relevant Centres at LSHTM

The **Centre for the Mathematical Modelling of Infectious Diseases (CMMID)** is a multidisciplinary grouping of epidemiologists, mathematicians, economists, statisticians and clinicians from across all three faculties of the LSHTM. Research focuses on understanding and predicting the epidemiology of infectious diseases so that more effective control programmes can be devised. Researchers are developing and applying mathematical models to a range of infections including HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, HPV, tuberculosis, hepatitis C, influenza, rotavirus, measles, varicella, pneumococcal disease, Hib, malaria and sleeping sickness. More recently, CMMID has been one of the leading groups involved in responding to modelling needs in the UK and globally around the COVID-19 pandemic. More fundamental research includes developing methods to measure underlying contact patterns, sampling hard-to-reach populations (such as drug users), efficiently fitting complex mathematical models to data, and the integration of epidemiological models with economic analyses. CMMID is actively engaged in developing links with other modelling groups; members of the CMMID include mathematical modellers working at the UK Health Security Agency and the Royal Veterinary College.

The **Vaccine Centre** is a collaborative partnership of over 100 scientists located throughout the world that is hosted by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine in the UK and its MRC units in The Gambia and Uganda. We aim to improve human and animal health through vaccination. Specifically, we aim to – develop new vaccines and evaluate their biological potential; test new vaccines for safety, immunogenicity and efficacy; and evaluate and optimise vaccine programmes and policies. We facilitate – forging scientific collaborations between scientists in complementary areas of discovery; encouraging synergistic thinking across the whole pathway of vaccine development and deployment, leading to better strategic planning for vaccine research; training the vaccine scientists of the future and teaching the scientific principles of vaccine discovery, clinical assessment and programme evaluation; and providing a hub to foster research networks, international partnerships, and meetings to tackle important challenges in vaccine science and policy.

The **Global Health Economics Centre (GHECO)** is a world-leading group of over 100 academics working on a diverse portfolio of health economics research, with work ranging from the development of innovative methods and empirical research, to policy engagement and impact. Members have strong national and international partnerships and a wealth of experience in advising UK and other national governments, international agencies, and organisations. Our vision is forward-looking and emphasise 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 **Centre for Evaluation** aims to improve the design and conduct of evaluations of complex public health interventions through the development, application and dissemination of rigorous methods, and facilitate the use of robust evidence to inform policy and practice decisions. The Centre consists of a network of researchers and practitioners across disciplines and public health contexts, within LSHTM and beyond, with expertise in evaluation methods.

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 & scholarship, including contributing to drafting major grant proposals and/or leading on drafting small grant proposals, and evaluating teaching practice;
2. To contribute to peer-reviewed publications and other outputs, including as lead author;
3. To make a contribution to doctoral student supervision, as appropriate to qualifications and experience;
4. To manage small grants or elements of larger grants, ensuring compliance with good practice in relation to the conduct of research, the ethics policy and other relevant LSHTM policies.
5. To assess the potential impact of jointly programming monthly supplementation with small-quantity lipid based nutrient supplements (SQ-LNS) with immunisation services in Chad and Niger. This involves leading and contributing analysis to mixed-methods process evaluation, infectious disease modelling, health economic analysis, and gender analysis.
6. To travel to project sites (once a year) in Chad and Niger for fieldwork and conduct training as well as remote engagement and training with in-country partners.
7. To lead and contribute to reports for key stakeholders as well as manuscripts for peer-reviewed journals.
8. To liaise with key partners including ALIMA (The Alliance for International Medical Action) and their in-country partners, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Edesia.
9. To identify, apply to and participate in cross-sector discussions with multilevel stakeholders, scientific conferences and other dissemination fora.
10. To contribute to future grant applications in relevant areas.

Education

1. To contribute to the delivery of high quality, inclusive, research-informed teaching and assessment in relation to your specific subject and within the broader area covered by your department and disciplinary field;
2. To contribute to the improvement of the quality of LSHTM's education, by participating in the development of new and updated learning and teaching materials or approaches.

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 contribute to the activities of interdisciplinary Centres at LSHTM, including the Centre for Mathematical Modelling of Infectious Diseases, Vaccine Centre, Global Health Economics Centre, and the Centre for Evaluation

External Contribution

1. To demonstrate good external citizenship by contributing to learned society/conference events, journal and grant reviews etc;
2. To contribute to the activities of the international partners.

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. 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, including when acting as Principal Investigator, accepting academic, managerial, financing and ethical responsibility for a project
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.

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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 postgraduate degree, ideally a doctoral degree, in a relevant topic.
2. Relevant experience in qualitative analysis, infectious disease modelling, health economic analysis, and gender analysis
3. Contributions to written output, preferably peer-reviewed, as expected by the subject area/discipline in terms of types and volume of outputs.
4. Proven ability to work independently, as well as collaboratively as part of a research team, and proven ability to meet research deadlines.
5. Evidence of excellent interpersonal skills, including the ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing
6. Evidence of good organizational skills, including effective time management.
7. Ability to program in a suitable language, such as R (preferred), Python, or C/C++.
8. Willingness to travel internationally, including to Chad and Niger

Desirable Criteria

1. Some experience of contributing to research grant applications.
2. Some experience of teaching and assessment.
3. Some experience of supervising and supporting junior researchers and/or research degree students, and non-academic staff.
4. Experience in qualitative analysis and mixed-methods process evaluation
5. Ability to analyse qualitative data using appropriate software, such as Nvivo.
6. Experience in modelling infectious disease in low- and middle-income countries.
7. Experience in health economics analysis of public health interventions
8. Experience in gender analysis of public health interventions
9. Proficient in French language (read, write, speak, understand)

Salary and Conditions of Appointment

The post is fixed term until 31 March 2027 and full-time 35 hours per week, 1.0 FTE. The post is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and is available immediately. The salary will be on the Academic scale, Grade 6 scale in the range £44,847 - £50,808 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.

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

Date amended: Jan 2024