

RESEARCH FELLOW



Job Title:	Research Fellow
Department:	Nutrition and Planetary Health Theme
Faculty:	MRC Unit The Gambia
Location:	The Gambia (or exceptionally other locations may be considered)
FTE:	1.0 FTE
Grade:	G6
Accountable to:	Principal Investigation
Job Summary:	A post-doctoral research fellow post is available to join an interdisciplinary team in The Gambia working on environmental change and human health. The post-holder will work in close collaboration with partners in Senegal, Burkina Faso, the UK and Switzerland.

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

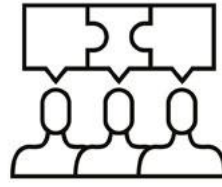
Our values establish how we aspire to achieve our mission both now and in the future - demonstrating what it means to work and study at LSHTM. Please visit our [LSHTM Values page](#) for further information.



**Act with
integrity**



**Embrace
difference**



**Work
together**



**Create
impact**

Faculty Information

Established in 1947, MRC Unit The Gambia (MRCG) at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine is a leading research centre in sub-Saharan Africa. Research is carried out by three major Research Themes (Disease Control & Elimination; Vaccines & Immunity; and Nutrition & Planetary Health) that benefit from the core - supported strategic platforms and of the research services. Disease Control & Elimination investigates the interactions between hosts, pathogens and vectors; and evaluates interventions aimed at interrupting transmission and/or reducing the burden of diseases.

Research is multidisciplinary and include a large epidemiological component complemented by social sciences and combined with strong laboratory and genomics support. Vaccines & Immunity studies the ontogeny of immunity as a baseline to inform the design of vaccines and maximise their impact. It hosts a portfolio of Phase 1 - 4 clinical trials of existing and novel vaccines and employs cutting - edge system biology methods to understand host responses to infection and vaccination. The Theme is also working on tuberculosis by examining host/pathogen interactions in adults and children. Nutrition & Planetary Health aims to understand the pathophysiology of diet - disease interactions in order to accelerate the development of more effective next - generation community and clinical interventions, and to build a major new program in planetary health. Two Cross - Cutting Programs, i.e., Maternal & Neonatal Health and West Africa, involve all Themes, often in synergy, and underpin the Unit' s commitment to carry out research to decrease the current high burden of maternal and neonatal mortality in sub - Saharan Africa and the Unit' s vocation as a Regional Centre of Excellence for Research and Training.

The Unit, receives an MRC core investment grant every 5 years, following the review of past activities and future plans. In addition, all research activities are supported by external grants from a variety of sources. The Unit has a turnover of in excess of £22m per annum and employs about 1400 staff.

The main campus is in Fajara on the coast and comprises laboratories, a hospital, offices, workshops etc. There are field stations upcountry in Basse, Keneba and Walikunda, each in a different ecological setting, providing varied research opportunities.

Founded in 1899, LSHTM is a globally renowned public health institution, whose mission is to improve health and health equity worldwide, through cutting edge research and postgraduate education. With over 3,000 staff conducting research in over 130 countries around the world, including at the MRC Units in The Gambia and Uganda, LSHTM is known for diverse and multidisciplinary research.

The Centre on Climate Change and Planetary Health was established to respond to the challenge of environmental changes that threaten human health. The Centre has three areas of focus: research to improve understanding on planetary health; fostering connections globally to bring about change; and co-creating imaginative, scalable solutions.

The MRC Unit The Gambia at LSHTM is seeking to recruit an early-career post-doctoral researcher with a proven track record of research in the field of environmental change and health. The Research Fellow will join an interdisciplinary team in The Gambia working on environmental restoration and health and will work in close collaboration with other Research Fellows and other team members in Senegal, Burkina Faso, the UK and Switzerland.

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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).

About the role

The impact on human health of restoring degraded African drylands project is a 3-year MRC UK Applied Global Health Research Award funded project investigating the health implications of landscape restoration. The project is using the Great Green Wall (GGW) of Africa program as a natural experimental study system. The project will use a combination of continental scale secondary data and primary data collected from field studies in 3 focal countries (The Gambia, Senegal, Burkina Faso) to understand the links between human health and restoration activities. The project involves social science (household surveys, focus groups, key informant interviews), field sampling (environmental data collection, human biological sample collection, entomological sampling), epidemiological analysis and modelling (risk factor analysis, spatial analysis, forecasting).

The work of the Research Fellow will be varied and require subject expertise in at least one (and ideally more than one) of the following areas: environmental or eco-epidemiology, landscape epidemiology, social-ecological systems science, nature-based solutions and health, disease ecology, or another related discipline suited to investigating linkages between a changing environment and human health.

The successful applicant will be involved in the overall development, methodological design and management of the project and its coordination across the three countries, as well as bringing their unique scientific expertise to one or more aspects of the project. The applicant will take a leading role in the analysis of data and publication of results of the project and contribute to the submission of applications for further funding. The appointed research fellow should be an independent researcher with the capacity to work under dynamic and challenging circumstances but will be strongly supported by a team of experts. Experience of working in Sub-Saharan Africa and West Africa in particular would be an advantage. Travel within this region will be required.

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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. Conduct research on the intersection between environmental change and health, which may include desk-based and community-based field research.
6. Lead or contribute to study conceptualization and design, project management and coordination including development of research tools for use in data collection, field workers recruitment coordination, training and supervision of field workers, and data management, data analysis, report writing.
7. Collaborate with an interdisciplinary team including epidemiologists, social scientists, clinicians, ecologists, and statisticians among others.
8. Conduct data collection, cleaning and processing and take responsibility for data quality, programming and carry out statistical analyses with quantitative statistical packages (e.g., R)
9. Apply novel statistical approaches.
10. Support ethical approval process from national ethics committees for research projects.
11. Mobilize and inform the community about the research project.
12. Prepare periodic activities and project reports.
13. Participate in the dissemination of research findings and dialogue on action items with appropriate audiences.
14. Prepare policy briefs and fact sheets based on project results.

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 participate to the activities of the MRCG Planetary Health group

External Contribution

1. To demonstrate good external citizenship by contributing to learned society/conference events, journal and grant reviews etc;

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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.
6. Attend relevant online/hybrid regional meetings and seminars as required.
7. Travel within the country and abroad based on work demands.

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. Demonstrated experience in conducting novel environmental change and health research from conception to output stages, including relevant expertise in environmental or eco- epidemiology, landscape epidemiology, social-ecological systems science, nature-based solutions and health, disease ecology, or another related discipline.
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. Strong quantitative skills (managing, analyzing and interpreting data), with demonstrated expertise and use of one or more areas of statistics and modelling.
8. Experience working in a multi-disciplinary team.
9. Ability to work on concurrent projects, prioritize and balance multiple tasks.
10. Ability to manage field workers, research teams and partnerships.

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 with work on environmental restoration / conservation (including nature-based solutions) and human health.
5. Experience with geospatial analysis, GIS, and data science.
6. Experience with advanced statistical methods used in environmental epidemiology or related disciplines.
7. Disposition to work in multicultural and multidisciplinary teams.
8. Some experience in communication and dissemination of policy-relevant results.
9. French language proficiency (oral and written).

Salary and Conditions of Appointment

The post is fixed term until 30 June 2027 and full-time 35 hours per week, 1.0 FTE. The post is funded by the MRC UK Applied Global Health Research 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

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: January 2025