

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

LONDON
SCHOOL of
HYGIENE
& TROPICAL
MEDICINE



Job Title:	Research Assistant in Social Innovation and Health
Department:	Department of Clinical Research
Faculty:	Faculty of Infectious and Tropical Diseases
Location:	Keppel Street, London, UK
FTE:	0.4 FTE (two days per week)
Grade:	G5
Accountable to:	Professor Rosanna Peeling
Job Summary:	<p>We are looking for an enthusiastic and highly motivated Research Assistant to join the world-leading International Diagnostics Centre at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM).</p> <p>Social innovation is defined as a novel solution to a social problem that is more effective, efficient, sustainable, or just than existing solutions and for which the value created accrues primarily to society as a whole rather than private individuals. Social innovation initiatives for health have been supported by the WHO-TDR program and many others. Social innovation projects in health are consistent with Sustainable Development Goals of leaving no one behind. This specific project will focus on decreasing unnecessary antibiotic use among medical trainees. The purpose of this study is to use participatory, crowdsourcing methods in order to develop more effective medical school curricula focused on antimicrobial resistance and clinical diagnostics.</p> <p>The successful candidate will help organise an open contest to solicit clinical case studies focused on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and clinical diagnostics. The cases collected as part of this open contest will be collated into a freely available online platform and formally evaluated in a pilot study. This will involve partnering with several organisations focused on AMR, diagnostics, and medical education.</p> <p>The post-holder will help coordinate this research, including obtaining necessary regulatory and ethical approvals, liaising with study sites, developing contest protocols, and helping with administrative tasks. S/he will be the principal officer responsible for the organisation of the open contest, and will also have the opportunity to participate in the evaluation of the work and contribute to the research output generated by the project.</p> <p>The post-holder will be supervised by Prof Rosanna Peeling and Dr Joseph Tucker. S/he will join a highly successful and supportive group focused on social innovation to enhance diagnostics. The successful applicant will have a BSc or MSc (in biology, public health, or a related field), experience in AMR, social innovation or clinical diagnostics, and the ability to work as part of a research team. Experience with social innovation (especially open contests), medical education, and evaluation of medical training are desirable for this role.</p> <p>This post represents an excellent opportunity for a committed individual who would like to organise an innovative healthcare solution from inception to delivery, and further their career in research and public health through the administration and evaluation of a novel healthcare intervention.</p>

GENERAL INFORMATION

The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine is a world-leading centre for research and postgraduate 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.

Founded in 1899, the School has expanded in recent years at its two main sites on Keppel Street and Tavistock Place. Our staff, students and alumni work in more than 150 countries in government, academia, international agencies and health services. Research income has grown to more than £110 million per year from national and international funding sources including UK government and research councils, the European Union, the Wellcome Trust, Gates Foundation and other philanthropic sources. The School's multidisciplinary expertise includes clinicians, epidemiologists, statisticians, social scientists, molecular biologists and immunologists, and we work with partners worldwide to support the development of teaching and research capacity.

Our education provision has expanded to more than 1,000 London-based Master's and Research students, 3,000 studying postgraduate courses by distance learning, and 1,000 each year on short courses and continuous professional development. Our free online courses (MOOCs) are studied by more than 30,000 participants globally.

The School performs well in various global university league tables. In the US News Best Global Universities Ranking 2017, we were ranked sixth in the world (together with Oxford University) in the fields of social sciences and public health. In the 2016 CWTS Leiden Ranking, the School was ranked fifth in the world for research impact across all disciplines, based on the share of institutions' outputs within the top 1% of papers by citation in all areas of science and independent of size of output.

The School was named University of the Year 2016 by Times Higher Education, in recognition of our response to the Ebola epidemic. The School is a member of the M8 Alliance of Academic Health Centres, Universities and National Academies, the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region, and the Consortium of Universities for Global Health.

FACULTY INFORMATION

Faculty of Infectious and Tropical Diseases

The Faculty of Infectious and Tropical Diseases encompasses all of the laboratory-based research in the School as well as that on the clinical and epidemiological aspects of infectious and tropical diseases. It is headed by Brendan Wren, Professor of Microbial Pathogenesis. The range of disciplines represented in the faculty is very broad and inter-disciplinary research is a feature of much of our activity. The spectrum of diseases studied is wide and there are major research groups with a focus on malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, vaccine development and evaluation, and vector biology and disease control. The Faculty is organised into four large research departments comprising: Pathogen Molecular Biology, Immunology and Infection, Disease Control, and Clinical Research. There is close interaction between scientists in different research teams. The Faculty has strong overseas links, which provide a basis for field studies and international collaborations in developed and developing countries. The teaching programme includes MSc courses, taught in-house and by distance learning, which are modular in structure, a variety of short-courses and an active doctoral programme (PhD and DrPH). For further information on the Faculty see: <https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/aboutus/organisation/faculties/infectious-and-tropical-diseases>.

Department of Clinical Research

The Department of Clinical Research addresses infectious diseases of major public health importance in developing countries. Activities include trials of new therapies, vaccines and educational interventions; the development of new diagnostic tests; studies to elucidate the immunological and molecular correlates of pathogenesis and protective immunity, and to identify genetic polymorphisms conferring protection or susceptibility to infectious diseases; health services research which aims to identify the most efficient and cost-effective way to deliver health care; and health policy analysis. In addition to our many overseas collaborations, we have close links with the Hospital for Tropical Diseases, in purpose-built accommodation on the main UCL Hospital campus, five minutes' walk from the School. The Wellcome Trust Bloomsbury Centre for Global Health Research is based in the Department, and supports Clinical Fellows at all levels, most of whom are based overseas.

The Department's main research interests include HIV and related infections; in particular, the interaction between HIV infection and tuberculosis, and other sexually transmitted diseases; malaria; trachoma; leprosy; diagnostic tests for resource limited settings; eye health; disability; and travel medicine.

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;
2. To contribute to the evaluation of contests and adjudicate submissions where appropriate;
3. To support the Principal Investigator, Project Lead and Research Fellow in the writing of peer-reviewed research publications;
4. To be the principal officer responsible for the organisation of an open contest, soliciting clinical case studies focused on antimicrobial resistance and clinical diagnostics;
5. To design and develop printed and online materials, organise events and perform other tasks as appropriate to spread awareness of the contest to relevant stakeholders;
6. To liaise with local partners and assist in the development of contest protocols;
7. To coordinate research both at LSHTM and internationally, obtaining necessary ethical/regulatory approvals for the contest as necessary;
8. To liaise with the IDC Centre Coordinator and agree contest budgets and expenditure as appropriate. [The post-holder will not be the primary officer responsible for budget management and no financial management experience is required.]
9. 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 School policies;

EDUCATION

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

INTERNAL CONTRIBUTION

1. To undertake activities that support the Department, Faculty or the School;
2. To participate in the School's PDR process;

EXTERNAL CONTRIBUTION

1. To demonstrate good external citizenship by supporting the external academic and practice communities;
2. To represent the International Diagnostics Centre at conferences, meetings and public engagement events if appropriate, acting in the best interests of the IDC and promoting its work;
3. To present results of scientific research to sponsors, address conferences and contribute to the publishing of articles outlining the methodology and results of research undertaken;

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING

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

2. For lab-based disciplines: to register for and complete a doctoral degree (if not already acquired);
3. To undertake and successfully complete the mandatory training required by the School 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 the School 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 the School's best interests;
2. Treat School staff, students and visitors with courtesy and respect at all times;
3. Comply fully with School policies, procedures and administrative processes relevant to the role;
4. Uphold and support the School's values (as set out in the School Strategy document);
5. Act as ambassadors for the School when hosting visitors or attending external events;

The above list of duties are 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. Higher education to degree level (BSc or equivalent)
2. Experience of collaborative research, especially related to antimicrobial resistance, social innovation in health or clinical diagnostics;
3. Excellent written and oral communication skills (including IT skills), and the ability to work without supervision;
4. Effective organisational skills; the ability to coordinate and prioritise a heavy workload, meet multiple deadlines and manage expectations;
5. High standard of accuracy and the ability to pay close attention to detail;
6. The ability to liaise with multiple stakeholder groups in a global context;
7. Strong interpersonal skills including the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with individuals from different backgrounds and cultures, together with the ability to communicate and negotiate at all levels.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA

1. Higher education to postgraduate level;
2. Experience in global health research or medical education;
3. Some experience of design, communications or event management.

SALARY AND CONDITIONS OF APPOINTMENT

The post is funded until 21 December 2018, part-time 14 hours per week (0.4 FTE). The salary will be on the Academic Grade 5 scale in the range £33,567 - £38,533 per annum (inclusive of London Weighting), pro rata for part-time staff. 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 "Director's Days". Membership of the Pension Scheme is available.

ASYLUM AND IMMIGRATION STATEMENT

The School will comply with the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006, 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 bring their passport (and visa if applicable) to interview so that it can be copied and verified.

This role does not meet the minimum requirements set by UK Visas and Immigration to enable sponsorship of migrant workers. Therefore we cannot progress applications from candidates who require sponsorship to work in the UK.

Further information about Certificate of Sponsorship and eligibility to work in the UK, can be found at: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/employers/points.

Academic Expectations: Research Assistant

Examples of expected types of activities are listed; the selection of activities will vary from year to year and not all activities in each category would necessarily be done in any one year. The statement in each shaded heading summarises the general expectations for contributions in each category. Given the nature of employment as a Research Assistant, it is expected that most activity will focus on knowledge generation, but some activity in other areas is desirable and will be required for career progression.

Knowledge generation: High quality support for, and contribution to, research
<i>Research and scholarship</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Undertaking research, as directed by line manager,• Contributions to funding applications including supporting more senior staff in completing applications,• Contributing to peer-reviewed outputs as expected by the subject area/discipline in terms of types of output,• Poster/oral presentations at conferences,• Social media contributions such as twitter, blogs, web-based media or webinars. <i>Doctoral degree supervision</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None expected, though involvement in advisory activities/roles or provision of practical skills training is encouraged where relevant. <i>Research management, leadership and support</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Effective management of own time and activities,• Supporting the administration of projects he/she is employed on, eg taking meeting minutes. <i>Professional development</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appropriate courses and other development activities, referenced to RDF.• For lab-based disciplines: to seek to register for and complete a doctoral degree (if not already acquired), if contract and funding source permit.
Education: Participation in educational activities ¹
<i>Teaching and assessment</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited participation in some aspects of the School's Education Programme or education outreach activities e.g. contributions to taught courses, research methods training, mentoring school pupils on outreach programmes. <i>Educational development and innovation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited contributions to educational innovations or developments, e.g. helping to update the content or delivery of a course or module. <i>Educational leadership and management</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None expected. <i>Professional development</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Formal study/training and/or other activities that develop educational knowledge and expertise, referenced to UKPSF.
Internal contribution: Support to the academic environment in the Department or beyond
<i>Internal citizenship</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supporting Department/Faculty/Centre/School events or special interest groups; organising seminars/lab meetings/journal clubs; group or departmental social organising; support to Athena Swan activities; support to external partnerships. <i>General leadership and management roles</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None expected.

¹it is accepted that some RA roles and/or funding make it difficult to give time to Educational activities, but some degree of engagement is encouraged

External contribution: Support to the external academic community
<i>External citizenship</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Involvement in journal or book reviews, if opportunities arise,• Sharing examples of good practice (e.g. contributing to discipline-specific interest group or professional bodies). <i>Knowledge translation and enterprise: not expected but options include</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collection of evidence of research impact for impact case studies (e.g. policy records, correspondence with policy makers, media highlights),• Engagement with policy/practice/industry/NGO communities and with the general public.