

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR



Job Title:	Research Fellow
Department:	Infectious Disease Epidemiology & International Health
Faculty:	Epidemiology & Population Health (EPH)
Location:	Keppel Street, London
FTE:	1.0
Grade:	6
Accountable to:	Edward Parker, Assistant Professor
Job Summary:	<p>We are seeking to recruit a medical statistician or an epidemiologist with experience using electronic health records for observational research to join the NIHR Health Protection Research Unit (HPRU) in Vaccines and Immunisation at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.</p> <p>The NIHR HPRU in Vaccines and Immunisation is a partnership between the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, in collaboration with the University of Cambridge and University College London.</p> <p>The HPRU has four research disciplines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discipline 1. Surveillance, Epidemiology, Electronic Health Records Research, Big Data Discipline 2. Infectious Disease Modelling, Economic Modelling, Systems Modelling Discipline 3. Social Science and Health Systems Research, and Artificial Intelligence Discipline 4. Vaccine Immunity and Sero-epidemiology <p>Each discipline contributes work across four research themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme 1. Improving vaccine coverage across the life course Theme 2. Making better use of data Theme 3. Accelerating new vaccine introduction & streamlining schedules Theme 4. Resilience, response, and pandemic preparedness <p>The successful candidate will be part of Discipline 1 (<i>Surveillance, Epidemiology, Electronic Health Records Research, Big Data</i>) and will contribute to projects across research themes.</p> <p>The HPRU aims to increase vaccine coverage and support a data-driven immunisation programme by making the most of digital technologies and linked electronic health records. Discipline 1's research programme includes studies of inequalities in infectious disease burden and vaccine uptake; vaccine safety, effectiveness and impact; and approaches to better use of data in delivery and evaluation of the immunisation programme.</p> <p>The successful candidate will be a statistician or an epidemiologist with experience in conducting and leading epidemiological studies using linked electronic health records, ideally including the Clinical Practice Research Datalink (CPRD) or OpenSAFELY.</p>

	<p>The post requires strong data management and quantitative skills with expertise in a common statistical package (e.g., Stata/R).</p> <p>Experience in the preparation of codelists and algorithms to define demographic and clinical subgroups would be regarded favourably, as would a track record of publications involving UK electronic health records.</p> <p>The post is based within the Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology – International Health at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. The post holder will work in close partnership with UKHSA colleagues, and with colleagues across LSHTM including the HPRU, the Electronic Health Records Research Group, and the Vaccine Centre.</p>
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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

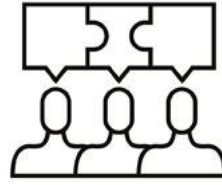
Our values establish how we aspire to achieve our mission both now and in the future - demonstrating what it means to work and study at LSHTM. Please visit our [LSHTM Values page](#) for further information.



**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 & International Health conducts research on the epidemiology and control of infectious diseases, and other topics relevant for global public health. Work is carried out in low-, middle- and high-income countries, including in the United Kingdom, in close collaboration with country partners and global stakeholders.

The Department has research groups working on maternal, perinatal and child health; adolescent health; infectious diseases including HIV, tuberculosis, malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases; vaccines; and humanitarian crises. Most staff have a disciplinary training in epidemiology or medical statistics, and a background in one or more of biology, medicine, mathematics, or social science.

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

The Department Heads are Professor Oona Campbell and Professor Sian Floyd.

NIHR Health Protection Research Unit in Immunisation

In partnership with UKHSA, Cambridge University and University College London, the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine has been awarded funding from the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and the Department of Health to run a [Health Protection Research Unit \(HPRU\) in Vaccines and Immunisation](#). The objectives of the HPRU are to reverse the decline in immunisation coverage in children, increase vaccine uptake in adults and reduce inequalities in the vaccine service through world-class research.

Within the programme of work of the HPRU, Discipline 1 (*Surveillance, Epidemiology, Electronic Health Records Research, Big Data*) aims to support UKHSA to achieve increased vaccine coverage and a data-driven immunisation programme by making the most of digital technologies and electronic health records.

The HPRU in Vaccines and Immunisation also comprises: Discipline 2 (*Infectious Disease Modelling, Economic Modelling, Systems Modelling*); Discipline 3 (*Social Science and Health Systems Research, and Artificial Intelligence*); and Discipline 4 (*Vaccine Immunity and Sero-epidemiology*).

The HPRU in Vaccines and Immunisation also has a remit for research capacity development, and a strong programme of Public and Community Involvement, Engagement and Participation.

Electronic Health Records Research Group

The Electronic Health Records (EHR) Research Group (<https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/research/centres-projects-groups/electronic-health-records>) is a diverse team capitalising on research opportunities offered by routinely collected data, bringing methodological rigour to provide real-world evidence for important questions regarding human health. Our work covers a broad-spectrum including disease aetiology, safety and effectiveness of medications, vaccines and surgery, environmental influences, and health services research. We have particular interest in developing and applying optimal research methods, including both observational and interventional approaches. Researchers in the group conduct a wide portfolio of research investigating disease aetiology and drug effects, across a range of clinical areas including brain health, cancer, and skin, cardiovascular, kidney and respiratory diseases. The overall aim of our work is to capitalise on new opportunities for research using electronic health data. We have close collaborative links with the Medical Statistics Department at LSHTM, the Clinical Practice Research Datalink, and Health Data Research UK.

The HPRU in Vaccines and Immunisation also has a remit for research capacity development, and a strong programme of Public and Community Involvement, Engagement and Participation. 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 design and conduct observational studies of vaccine epidemiology using electronic health record data from a range of sources including the Clinical Practice Research Datalink (CPRD) and/or OpenSAFELY.
6. To work in partnership with other HPRU Disciplines and the UKHSA to develop joint research project plans and grant application(s).

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.
3. To support MSc students undertaking projects associated with Discipline 1 of the HPRU in Vaccines and Immunisation.

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 assist HPRU management in reporting activities to the funder (NIHR).
5. To coordinate with HPRU colleagues to deliver actions that meet the HPRU and NIHR's strategic objectives.

External Contribution

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

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2. To represent the HPRU at international and national external events, conferences, and workshops.
3. To communicate research results in both reports and oral presentations to inform evidence-based policy decisions (e.g., advising the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation).
4. To contribute to open and reproducible research through sharing of analytic code and code lists.
5. To contribute to the HPRU in Vaccines and Immunisation's patient and public involvement and engagement (PPIE) activities.
6. To contribute to HPRU research collaborations with external collaborators such as the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and other HPRUs.

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 leading, designing, analysing, and interpreting epidemiological studies using large electronic health record datasets from the UK.
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 data management and quantitative skills with experience in a common statistical package (e.g., Stata or R).

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 using Clinical Research Practice Datalink (CPRD) or OpenSAFELY for epidemiological research related to vaccines.
5. Experience of research skills particularly relevant to vaccine epidemiology (e.g., self-controlled case series methodology).
6. Experience of developing collaborative and reproducible code for data analysis and statistical analysis.
7. Experience developing codelists and algorithms to define demographic and clinical subgroups.

Salary and Conditions of Appointment

The post is fixed term until 31 March 2027 and full-time 35 hours per week, 1.0 FTE, with the possibility of extension dependent on funding. The post is funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) 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