

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Job Title:	Research Assistant
Department:	Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and International Health
Faculty:	Epidemiology and Population Health
Location:	Nairobi (Kenya)
FTE:	1.0
Grade:	G5
Accountable to:	Head of Department through Prof. Eric Ohuma
Job Summary:	<p>The post holder will work at LSHTM under the supervision of Prof Eric Ohuma.</p> <p>The goal of the project is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and conduct an impact evaluation to measure how successful Food for Education (F4E) school feeding programme (SFP) has been on the nutritional and educational outcomes of primary school children in the target schools in Nairobi County • Conduct cost effectiveness analysis of the SFP • Support F4E to update and strengthen their program monitoring, including setting up a unified project level dashboard projecting real time Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for accountability, and timely decision-making. <p>The postholder will lead or support data collection using appropriate tools for obtaining 24-hour recall nutrition data, training of data collectors, supervising data collection, performing data checks, analysis of nutrition data using widely used nutrient analysis software such as NutriSurvey and perform analysis in STATA and/or R statistical software. In addition, the postholder will contribute to data collection of qualitative surveys and interviews of parents/children benefiting from the school feeding programme. The postholder will work on building on methods and approaches for harmonising nutrition data from food composition tables for Kenya. The successful candidate is expected to take a lead role in ensuring the right data and of high quality is collected, develop a data systems infrastructure that ensures data is available in a timely fashion in coordination with the Food for Education (an NGO in Kenya), and lead the analysis on impact evaluation of the school feeding programme in over 70 primary and pre-primary schools in Nairobi, Kenya under the supervision of the PI. There is increasing focus in school feeding programmes especially in Africa and their benefit to health and education. The postholder will collate a set of resources and create new learning materials to enable a wider set of researchers especially in Africa, to work effectively with school feeding programme data in support of their research priorities.</p> <p>This post will be based in Nairobi, Kenya. Applicants must demonstrate that they have the right to live and work in the location in which they wish to be based.</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

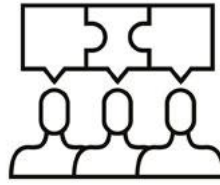
Our values establish how we aspire to achieve our mission both now and in the future - demonstrating what it means to work and study at LSHTM. Please visit our [LSHTM Values page](#) for further information.



**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 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.

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 lead the data checking, and cleaning of nutrition data using STATA or R statistical software
4. To lead the analysis of nutrition data using widely used nutrient analysis software such as NutriSurvey and STATA or R statistical software packages
5. To support data collection using appropriate tools for obtaining 24-hour recall nutrition data, and training of data collectors
6. To support the harmonising of nutrition data from food composition tables for Kenya.
7. To support the development of a data system infrastructure to ensure data is available and accessible in a timely fashion
8. To support the collation of a set of resources and learning materials relevant to school feeding programme in Africa.

Education

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

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 play an active role in supporting activities in the MARCH Centre and the Maternal Newborn Health Group.

External Contribution

1. To demonstrate good external citizenship by supporting the external academic and practice communities;

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2. To liaise effectively with others notably the Food for Education, Kenya Medical Research Centre – Centre for Public Health, affiliated technical experts and 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. 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 public health nutrition or a related field
2. Relevant experience in statistical analysis and programming using STATA and/or R.
3. Experience in analysis of dietary assessments and nutrient intake data i.e., macro and micronutrients using commonly used software such as Nutrisurvey.
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.

Desirable Criteria

1. Some experience of teaching
2. Evidence of experience in writing, editing, and referencing journal papers for publication.
3. Familiarity with dashboard development in software such as R shiny.
4. Familiarity with Github or any other version control tools.
5. Track record of working in the field of nutrition and school feeding programmes
6. Understanding of data security and encryption for transfer and storage of confidential datasets.

Salary and Conditions of Appointment

The post is fixed term until 31st March 2026 and full-time 35 hours per week. The post is funded by the Children's Investment Fund Foundation and is available immediately. The salary will be on the Academic scale, Grade 5 scale in the range £39,432 to £45,097 per annum (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 notarized 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: Jan 2024

