

RESEARCH FELLOW



Job Title:	Research Fellow
Department:	Health Services Research and Policy
Faculty:	Public Health and Policy
Location:	Tavistock Place, London
FTE:	1.0 FTE
Grade:	G6
Accountable to:	Head of Department through Principal Investigator (PI)
Job Summary:	<p>The postholder will join an exciting, new NIHR funded research project called TACTIC: Timeliness of access to Cancer Treatment- improving care. https://fundingawards.nihr.ac.uk/award/NIHR168433. The postholder will use cancer registry and other linked data to compare cancer waiting times across different NHS trusts. They will be required to apply advanced statistical techniques to estimate the causal effects of increased waiting time on outcomes. The successful applicant will also evaluate the effectiveness, cost-effectiveness and impact on inequalities of alternative strategies to reduce cancer waiting times.</p> <p>The postholder will be supported by leading statisticians and health economists linked to the National centre of excellence overseeing 10 National Cancer Audits in England and Wales https://www.natcan.org.uk/ and colleagues working in the Inequalities in Cancer Outcomes Network. The postholder will have the opportunity to forge strong links with colleagues working on overlapping areas of interest, for example through the LSHTM centre, Data and Statistical Science Centre for Data and Statistical Science for Health LSHTM.</p> <p>This role offers an unusual opportunity for an early career research with strong statistical skills to develop their career and undertake advanced analyses within a major study of direct policy and clinical relevance.</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

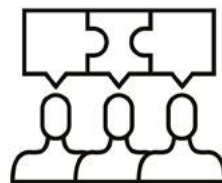
Our values establish how we aspire to achieve our mission both now and in the future - demonstrating what it means to work and study at LSHTM. Please visit our [LSHTM Values page](#) for further information.



**Act with
integrity**



**Embrace
difference**



**Work
together**



**Create
impact**

Faculty Information

Faculty of Public Health and Policy

The Faculty of Public Health and Policy (PHP) aims to improve health in the UK and worldwide. We do this through research, teaching and consultancy in the areas of health policy, health systems and services, and public health. We run a range of popular and respected MSc courses, research degrees, short courses and CPD.

The faculty has around 250 academic staff, 50 Professional Services staff, and 250 doctoral students. We are the largest multi-disciplinary public health group in Europe, and one of the largest groups world-wide of social scientists working on health. We use multidisciplinary and multi-method approaches to generate new knowledge to improve health in specific contexts and inform transferability of approaches across contexts. We engage with people, policymakers and service providers to ensure our research is inclusive, relevant, and informs policy and practice.

Our research, teaching and consultancy are inter-disciplinary, encompassing anthropology, economics, epidemiology, geography, history, international relations, mathematics political science, psychology, public health medicine, sociology and statistics.

We actively work to embed the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) within Faculty practice, policies and processes.

PHP is made up of three departments:

- Department of Global Health and Development which focuses on health policy and systems research, economic evaluation, gender violence and violence in childhood, and medical humanitarianism, all primarily in low- and middle-income settings.
- Department of Health Services, Research and Policy which focuses on improving the quality, organisation and management of health services and systems.
- Department of Public Health, Environments and Society which focuses on the social and environmental influences on health and how these are addressed.

Department of Health Services Research and Policy (HSRP)

The aim of the Department is to carry out research that helps to improve the quality, organisation and management of health services and systems. This work covers the three essential stages required to improve health care at the service, organisational and national level:

- studies to establish the most effective practices and policies, including how care can be best organised and delivered
- research assessing the quality of existing services and policies
- establishing how services and policies can be improved to achieve more resilient systems.

We conduct research aiming to understand how health services and systems behave, alongside applied research to support clinicians, managers, and policymakers. Our work brings together a wide range of methods, including quantitative evaluation, policy analysis and qualitative studies, and teams from a wide range of disciplines.

In addition to running a large number of research projects, we also run the [Clinical Effectiveness Unit](#) at the Royal College of Surgeons of England and support a similar unit at the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists.

HSRP is home to the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) [Policy Innovation and Evaluation Research Unit \(PIRU\)](#) and the [Policy Research Unit in Health and Social Care Systems and Commissioning \(PRUComm\)](#) and host one of the two UK offices of the [European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies](#).

While most of our research focuses on high-income countries, the UK in particular, an increasing portfolio of work addresses health system challenges in low resource settings, with a focus on mental health and non-communicable diseases, with close links to the LSHTM's [Centre for Global Chronic Conditions](#). We also host the [Journal of Health Services Research & Policy](#). The journal presents the latest scientific research, insightful overviews and reflections on underlying issues, and innovative, thought-provoking contributions from leading academics and policymakers.

Publications by department staff can be found in the School's [online publications repository](#)

The TACTIC study

The postholder will work full-time on the NIHR funded TACTIC study. The TACTIC study will investigate how to improve timeliness of curative surgery or radiotherapy for people with cancer by using an innovative *cancer learning system* model. The study will focus on four high burden cancers (bowel, breast, lung and oesophageal cancer). The learning model will combine high quality data with innovative co-design techniques, facilitated by an inclusive online community and will provide large-scale capability for understanding problems, developing solutions, and evaluating them.

The quantitative element of the TACTIC study will have the following elements:

- a) A comparison of cancer waiting time across NHS trusts and over time for four major cancers, overall and according to key demographic and case-mix measures
- b) An investigation of the causal effects of increasing waiting times for cancer treatments on outcomes.
- c) An evaluation of the impact of strategies to reduce waiting times on key process measures and the costs of care

The TACTIC study is a collaborative research programme led by Professors Richard Grieve, Ajay Aggarwal and Mary Dixon-Woods (THIS Institute, University of Cambridge). The wide network of collaborators includes colleagues within LSHTM with expertise in data science and statistics (Prof Ruth Keogh, Dept of Medical Statistics), and NATCAN methodological leads for the relevant audits (Prof David Cromwell and Prof Kate Walker), director of operations (Dr Julie Nossiter), as well as leading experts in oncology and surgery.

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 curate and describe the required data on cancer waiting times, case mix, survival, resource use and costs.
6. To fit regression models (e.g. random effects) that compare waiting times across providers and over time to identify positive outliers
7. To conduct sequential target trials and apply causal methods that allow for time varying confounding to estimate the effects of increased waiting time on survival, resource use and cost

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 actively in research groups within the department (health services research and policy, and within LSHTM centres (e.g. DASH)

External Contribution

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

RESEARCH FELLOW



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.

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 applying regression models to complex forms of observational data
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. Experience in applying causal inference approaches to health data
8. Excellent programming skills in a relevant statistical software (e.g. in R or Stata)

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 of analysing time-to-event outcomes
5. Experience of analysing longitudinal data
6. Demonstrable interest in cost-effectiveness analysis

Salary and Conditions of Appointment

The post is full-time 35 hours per week, 1.0 FTE and fixed term until 31 August 2028. The post is funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) and is available from 01 September 2025. The salary will be on the LSHTM salary scale, Grade 6 in the range £45,097 - £51,156 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