

RESEARCH FELLOW



Job Title:	Trial Manager / Research Fellow (based in Malawi)
Department:	Population Health (DPH)
Faculty:	Epidemiology & Population Health (EPH)
Location:	Malawi
FTE:	1.0
Grade:	G6
Accountable to:	Head of Department through Principal Investigator (PI, Prof Mia Crampin)
Job Summary:	The post-holder will play a leading role in a cluster-randomised trial of a primary school based behavioural intervention to reduce salt intake among adolescents and their families in rural and urban Malawi ("No-to-Na: Tackling cardiovascular risk in the adolescent life-course through a schools' salt-reduction intervention in sub-Saharan Africa"). They will be co-ordinating inputs from experts in complex interventions, educational theory and the Malawi school health and nutrition programme for development of the intervention; and development of trial protocols and data collection tools with inputs from experts in epidemiology, medical statistics, health economists and a community team experienced in the settings.

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 are 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.

The Faculty

The Faculty of Epidemiology & Population Health (EPH) houses a large group of epidemiologists, demographers, statisticians and nutritionists working on issues of major public health importance in the UK and globally. EPH has approximately 400 staff members organised into four research departments.

Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology
Department of Medical Statistics
Department of Non-communicable Disease Epidemiology
Department of Population Health

The Faculty has a teaching programme consisting of ten MSc courses: Epidemiology, Demography and Health, Medical Statistics, Public Health for Development (run jointly with the Faculties of Infectious & Tropical Diseases and Public Health & Policy), Nutrition for Global Health, Reproductive & Sexual Health Research, Veterinary Epidemiology (run jointly with the Royal Veterinary College), Global Mental Health (run jointly with Kings College London - Institute of Psychiatry) and the Distance Learning courses in Epidemiology, Clinical Trials and Demography in Health. The Faculty also has approximately 120 research students studying for an MPhil, PhD or DrPH degree.

The Dean of Faculty is Professor John Edmunds.

The Department

The Department of Population Health (DPH) aims to increase global access to effective treatments and public health interventions, and is a centre of excellence in the determinants and consequences of population change. We have strong links with many overseas research groups and provide world-class opportunities for postgraduate training.

The Department Head is currently Prof. Rebecca Sear.

The Population Studies Group

The [Population Studies Group \(PSG\)](#) in the Department of Population Health is engaged in the measurement and explanation of population trends and the analysis of health and other consequences of population changes. With 21 academic and academic-related staff and 12 research students, PSG represents one of the largest UK research groups concerned with demography, reproductive health research and related disciplines. The group conducts research on Britain and other high income countries and on mid and low-income regions. Most staff work in London, but a few members of staff are based overseas in Ethiopia, Tanzania and Malawi.

PSG has strong programmes of research in both rich and poor countries on topical issues in the fields of reproductive and sexual health, the demographic impact of the AIDS epidemic in Africa, family demography, evolutionary demography, as well as methodological work on demographic analysis techniques. It has substantial research grants awarded by the ESRC, the Wellcome Trust, and the Gates Foundation. The research group hosts the network for Analysis of Longitudinal, Population-based data on HIV/AIDS in Africa (ALPHA), and the Evolutionary Demography Group.

PSG provides much of the teaching for the MSc in Demography and Health and the MSc in Reproductive and Sexual Health Research. These courses are long-established Economic and Social Research Council outlets for postgraduate training and the research group currently holds several ESRC DTC and MRC studentships.

The Malawi Epidemiology and Intervention Research Unit (MEIRU)

The Malawi Epidemiology and Intervention Research Unit (MEIRU, current Director: Professor Mia Crampin), was formed in 2017 as partnership between LSHTM, Malawi Ministry of Health and Malawi College of Medicine (and more recently University of Glasgow), building on the long-standing Karonga Prevention Study.

MEIRU is funded primarily from UK Research funders, with additional support from LSHTM and University of Glasgow. Its remit is to conduct research including interventional and translational research on conditions of public health importance in Malawi and the region, whilst developing research capacity in Malawi.

MEIRU conducts research primarily in two geographical locations in Malawi; rural Karonga District, where there is also a long-established demographic surveillance site and urban Lilongwe city. In Karonga (approximately 500km from Lilongwe's international airport), MEIRU has 15-acre campus in lake-shore Chilumba, with a complex of laboratory, data management, workshop and administration facilities, and clinic space in multiple Ministry of Health facilities across the district. The Karonga Demographic Surveillance site has been operating since 2002, with 40,000 individuals under observation. In Lilongwe, MEIRU is based in the Ministry of Health Community Health Sciences Unit, with office and laboratory facilities. The urban population platform is Area 25, a densely populated urban area of approximately 65,000 individuals. MEIRU has clinic and office facilities at the Ministry of Health Area 25 Health centre and operates in other urban health facilities according to needs of particular studies.

The work of MEIRU builds on a long-standing programme of multidisciplinary infectious diseases research in Karonga Districts (notably HIV, TB, leprosy and vaccine preventable diseases) and since 2012, has included a major programme of non-communicable disease work, building on a large and detailed rural-urban survey of hypertension, diabetes, overweight and associated risk factors, and including multiple interventions aimed at prevention and management of chronic NCD and multimorbidities, in collaboration with international academic institutions and multiple Malawi stakeholders including relevant policy units.

The post

MEIRU has an extensive programme of epidemiological and intervention research in chronic non-communicable diseases as well an ongoing programme of demographic and infectious diseases research.

The post holder will be leading "No-to-Na: Tackling cardiovascular risk in the adolescent life-course through a schools' salt-reduction intervention in sub-Saharan Africa". This is a cluster-randomised trial of a primary school based behavioural intervention to reduce salt intake among adolescents and their families in rural and urban Malawi. It is funded by MRC/DFID/NIHR, and conducted as a partnership between MEIRU, Malawi Ministries of Health and Education, LSHTM and the University of Glasgow. Trial end points are reduction in sodium excretion and blood pressure in adolescents and adults in their household. The post-holder will play a leading role in this research, co-ordinating inputs from experts in complex interventions, educational theory and the Malawi school health and nutrition programme for development of the intervention; and development of trial protocols and data collection tools with inputs from experts in epidemiology, medical statistics, health economists and a community team experienced in the settings. The applicant will supervise two graduate scientists who will be based in each of the rural and urban settings to deliver and evaluate the intervention.

The post-holder will be based in Malawi, either in the urban or rural area, with frequent travel between sites. The applicant will also be required to travel to the UK occasionally for meetings.

S/he will also be expected to contribute to the ongoing capacity development of MEIRU in community clinical trials, and to contribute to LSHTM's postgraduate teaching programme at MSc level.

The portfolio of duties outlined below will vary in accordance with the detailed expectations of the role (attached), 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 grant proposals;
2. To contribute to peer-reviewed publications, including as lead author;
3. To make a contribution to research degree student supervision, as appropriate to qualifications and experience;
4. To manage small grants or elements of larger grants, (possibly including the supervision of fieldwork working on the trial) ensuring compliance with good practice in relation to the conduct of research, the ethics policy and other relevant MEIRU and School policies;
5. To lead the primary-school sodium reduction trial at MEIRU;
6. To co-ordinate inputs from co-investigators and liaise with LSHTM and University of Glasgow;
7. To lead on development of protocols, standard operating procedures, ethics applications, data collection tools and training material relating the trial;
8. To liaise with Ministry of Health (Malawi) and education authorities in Malawi regarding development and conduct of the trial;
9. To ensure ethical conduct and quality of the trial.

EDUCATION

1. To contribute to the delivery of high quality, 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 the School's education, by participating in the development of new and updated learning and teaching materials or approaches, including distance learning.

INTERNAL CONTRIBUTION

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

EXTERNAL CONTRIBUTION

1. To demonstrate good external citizenship by contributing to learned society/conference events, journal and grant reviews.
2. To ensure co-ordination of public engagement, field, data and laboratory activities on the trial.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING

1. To keep up to date with the latest research, theory and methods in demography and health and with changes to pedagogic practice within the School, MEIRU and more generally;
2. To undertake and successfully complete the mandatory training required by the School and MEIRU 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, including when acting as Principal Investigator, accepting academic, managerial, financing and ethical responsibility for a project
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 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.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. MSc in Clinical Trials / Epidemiology / Nutrition or another relevant subject.
2. Experience working independently and as part of a team.
3. Good publication record commensurate with experience.
4. Proven epidemiological and statistical skills.
5. Proven ability to work effectively as a member of a multidisciplinary scientific team and in a multicultural environment, as well as independently.
6. Proven written and oral communication skills in English.
7. Willingness to be based at the MEIRU in Karonga or Lilongwe.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA

1. PhD in relevant subject area.
2. Experience in managing community based clinical trial.
3. Experience with post-graduate teaching.
4. Experience of working in low income countries, preferably in sub-Saharan Africa.
5. Experience using STATA statistical package.
6. Experience of line management and supervision of research staff.
7. Experience of education interventions

SALARY AND CONDITIONS OF APPOINTMENT

This is a full-time post based in Malawi to start as soon as possible and is funded until 30th April 2021. The salary will be on the Academic scale, Grade 6 scale in the range £39,304 - £44,634 per annum. 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.

Applications should be made on-line via our website at <http://jobs.lshtm.ac.uk>. Applications should also include the names and email contacts of 2 referees who can be contacted immediately if shortlisted. Online applications will be accepted by the automated system until 10pm of the closing date. 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" will not be considered acceptable.

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

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 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.

Applicants will be required to have the right to work in Malawi (or to apply for a suitable work visa).

Academic Expectations: Research Fellow

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 Fellow, it is expected that most activity will focus on knowledge generation, but some activity in other areas is required and will support career progression.

<p>Knowledge generation: Independent contributions and a clear trajectory towards excellence as an academic researcher</p> <p><i>Research and scholarship</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertaking research • Working with PIs to draft grant proposals and/or leading writing of small grants, work packages or sections of larger proposals or personal fellowship applications • Contributing to peer-reviewed outputs, including as first author, as expected by the subject area/discipline in terms of types of output • Poster/oral presentations at relevant conferences, translation of research findings into educational materials • Social media contributions such as twitter, blogs, web-based media or webinars <p><i>Doctoral degree supervision</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For RFs with Doctorate, some contribution to doctoral degree supervision is encouraged (e.g. specialist skills training; ad hoc advice; advisory committees). RFs without a Doctorate may also advise in areas of specialist knowledge¹ <p><i>Research management, leadership and support</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective management of own time and activities • Management of small research grants or elements of larger grants, including management of data collection and relationships with research collaborators, support to grants management <p><i>Professional development</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courses and other professional development activities, referenced to RDF • To apply for and undertake a doctoral degree (if not already acquired), if contract and funding source permit;
<p>Education: Basic competence in teaching and assessment</p> <p><i>Teaching and assessment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research-informed teaching and assessment contributions (e.g. contributions to modules, MSc project supervision) <p><i>Educational development and innovation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributing to the development of new educational materials, learning opportunities or assessments approaches <p><i>Education leadership and management</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None expected <p><i>Professional development</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in professional development activities referenced to UKPSF (e.g. HEA, PGCILT, preparation for doctoral degree supervision, shadowing more experienced colleagues)
<p>Internal contribution: Contributions to School functioning and development</p> <p><i>Internal citizenship</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributing to at least one Department, Faculty, School, or Centre event or special interest group in any one year; • Supporting external School collaborations/partnerships (beyond own research or education role) where relevant <p><i>School leadership and management roles</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None expected
<p>External contribution: Contribution beyond the School</p> <p><i>External citizenship</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributing to learned society/conference events, journal and grant reviews etc <p><i>Knowledge translation and enterprise: not expected but options include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collecting evidence of research impact for impact case studies (e.g. policy records, correspondence with policy makers, media highlights) • Engaging with policy/practice/industry/NGO communities and the general public • Supporting MOOCs/OERs or other (e.g. educational) outreach

¹ Such RFs are expected where the length and nature of the position permits, to apply for and, if accepted, undertake a doctoral degree (if not already acquired)