

PROFESSOR



Job Title:	Professor/Head Viral Pathogens
Department:	Viral Pathogens Theme
Faculty:	MRC/UVRI and LSHTM Uganda Research Unit
Location:	Primarily Entebbe, Uganda, with active collaborative engagement in Glasgow
FTE:	1.0 FTE
Grade:	Professorial Salary
Accountable to:	Unit Director and Clinical Professor at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.
Job Summary:	Joint appointment between MRC/UVRI & LSHTM Uganda Research Unit and the MRC-University of Glasgow Centre for Virus Research (CVR). This is unique leadership opportunity to shape the global virology agenda by bridging cutting-edge field research in Africa with advanced laboratory and translational science in the UK.

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

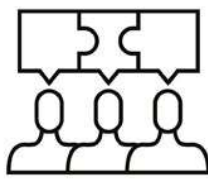
Our values establish how we aspire to achieve our mission both now and in the future - demonstrating what it means to work and study at LSHTM. Please visit our [LSHTM Values page](#) for further information.



**Act with
integrity**



**Embrace
difference**



**Work
together**



**Create
impact**

Faculty Information

The MRC/UVRI & LSHTM Uganda Research Unit

Situated alongside the Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI) in Entebbe, the Uganda Unit is one of Africa's leading research institutions. Established in 1988 to tackle the HIV epidemic, the Unit has evolved to address a wide range of pressing health challenges - from emerging and re-emerging infections to non-communicable diseases. The Unit is home to over 60 scientists, 34 PhD students, and maintains research hubs across Entebbe, Masaka, and Kalungu. State-of-the-art laboratory infrastructure includes next-generation sequencing, advanced immunoassays, a dedicated high-performance computing cluster, and robust clinical trial and general population cohort platforms. Social sciences are embedded across all scientific themes, enhancing contextual relevance and impact.

The Unit's science is structured around three interlinked research Themes: Viral Pathogens, Vaccine Research, and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), each led by a senior scientist and supported by strong social science integration

(<https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/research/units/mrc-uganda/research>). The Viral Pathogens Theme focuses on understanding the transmission, evolution, and impact of HIV, arboviruses, hemorrhagic fevers, and other viruses of major public health importance. The Theme collaborates closely with the Vaccine Research Theme to inform vaccine development and evaluation, and with the NCDs Theme to explore links between chronic infections and conditions such as cancer and metabolic disease. The Unit's well-established cohorts and biobanks provide unique opportunities for viral discovery, pathogen surveillance, and cross-Theme research, fostering a multidisciplinary approach to complex health challenges in Uganda and beyond.

You will shape a forward-looking research strategy that capitalises on Uganda's status as a hotspot for emerging infections and leverages one of Africa's strongest research infrastructures. You will also contribute to the Unit's senior leadership, working alongside the Unit Director and other Theme Leads to steer our broader scientific direction.

The role offers rich opportunities to lead virus discovery, translational immunology, vaccine development, and diagnostic innovation, while fostering links with local medical, veterinary, and ecological scientists working in a region of remarkable biodiversity.

UVRI: Embedded National Partnership

Co-located on UVRI's campus - Uganda's national centre for virus research - the Unit benefits from direct access to national surveillance networks, WHO reference laboratories, outbreak response systems, and an engaged policy environment. Shared platforms, a joint ethics committee, and close day-to-day collaboration with local and international partners create a fertile setting for research that moves swiftly from discovery to impact.

CVR: Access to Global Expertise and Cutting-Edge Science

This role is offered in joint partnership with the MRC–University of Glasgow Centre for Virus Research (CVR) – the UK's largest and most comprehensive centre dedicated to virology. The CVR hosts over 25 principal investigators and 200 staff working across molecular virology, viral genomics, structural biology, immunology, bioinformatics, and antiviral development. The Centre provides access to high-containment laboratories (including BSL-3), insectaries, in vivo models, advanced imaging platforms including cryo-electron microscopy, and state-of-the-art sequencing and data science infrastructure.

The appointment builds on a dynamic, long-standing collaboration between the Uganda Unit and the CVR, linking population-based cohorts, real-time outbreak response, and ecological fieldwork in Uganda with advanced virology, pathogen discovery, and translational science in Glasgow. A series of joint metagenomic sequencing studies have transformed understanding of the causes of undiagnosed febrile illness, meningitis, and measles-like syndromes, while other collaborative projects have investigated risk factors for viral haemorrhagic fever exposure, and evaluated emerging diagnostic platforms for high-consequence pathogens including mpox and CCHFV (DOI: [10.1038/s41467-025-57696-8](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-025-57696-8); DOI: [10.1016/j.jinf.2024.106148](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jinf.2024.106148); DOI: [10.1128/mra.00606-22](https://doi.org/10.1128/mra.00606-22); DOI: [10.1016/j.jinf.2022.09.007](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jinf.2022.09.007); doi: [10.1186/s13071-022-05588-x](https://doi.org/10.1186/s13071-022-05588-x)). The CVR also offers access to cutting-edge AI and machine learning approaches for pathogen discovery, immune profiling, and predictive modelling of virus evolution and emergence.

This partnership enables a new exceptional platform for scientific leadership in virology, uniting **field-based discovery in a region of high viral diversity with deep laboratory and data science capability**, to drive innovations in surveillance, diagnostics, and epidemic preparedness.

LSHTM: An internationally leading centre of excellence in global and public health

The MRC/UVRI & LSHTM Uganda Research Unit is part of LSHTM having been formally united in 2018. This provides a research environment that spans not only London and Entebbe, Uganda but brings links to the MRC Unit The Gambia Unit at LSHTM as well as a vibrant network of other partners in sub-Saharan Africa and beyond. LSHTM links also provides a diverse academic and training environment for onward career development of both the Theme Lead and their research group members.

The portfolio of duties outlined below will vary in accordance with the academic expectations of the role and any additional role to which you are formally appointed, 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 deliver high quality research & scholarship in your field of study, individually and in collaboration with others, by maintaining a substantial programme of research supported by good¹ research funders, publishing peer-reviewed outputs, undertaking, and supporting colleagues in, generating and securing (where relevant) intellectual property, and evaluating teaching practice;
2. To oversee and participate in doctoral student supervision and examination;
3. To demonstrate research leadership and promote and ensure compliance of self and others with good practice in relation to the conduct of research, the ethics policy, inclusivity, and other relevant LSHTM policies;
4. To lead on, monitor and advance, the development of early-career researchers;
5. Shape and lead the Viral Pathogens Theme at one of Africa's leading research institutions, setting a bold scientific vision with global significance.
6. Develop high-impact, cross-site research programmes that unite field cohorts and real-time surveillance in Uganda with cutting-edge genomics, immunology, and translational pipelines at the CVR.
7. Advance research on virus emergence, transmission dynamics, and control strategies in regions of high epidemic potential and viral diversity.
8. Influence national, regional, and global health agendas through strong links with Ministries of Health, WHO, UKRI, and other international partners.
9. Mentor and build capacity among early-career African and UK researchers, strengthening equitable partnerships and developing the next generation of virology leaders.
10. Translate discovery science into practical impact for diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines - from bench to bedside to policy.

Education

¹ Good research funders are: Research Councils; Government Departments; NIHR; National and overseas charities recognised by HEFCE for QR; Overseas research councils or equivalent including NIH; EU; other agencies (eg NGOs, commercial companies) supporting commissioned research that is consistent with LSHTM's mission and meets LSHTM's cost recovery targets.

1. To deliver high quality, inclusive education 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 and inclusivity of LSHTM's education, by participating in the review and development of new and updated learning and teaching materials or approaches, and/or improving assessment practices, and/or improving aspects of the student experience;
3. To demonstrate educational leadership and management by taking responsibility for a specific element of the faculty's education portfolio;
4. To contribute to the development and improvement of the Unit's training activities. including overseeing and participating in doctoral student supervision and examination.

Internal Contribution

1. To demonstrate good internal citizenship by undertaking PDRs and promoting staff development, and by leading on the recruitment, mentoring and support of colleagues as appropriate;
2. To take on senior leadership and managerial responsibilities in a Faculty, Department, MRC Unit or Centre and LSHTM committee roles as appointed, and by supporting activities that ensure a vibrant, supportive and productive academic environment;
3. To proactively demonstrate LSHTM's EDI goals in your work and behaviour;
4. To contribute to the effective running of the Unit in Uganda
5. Take strategic leadership for the Unit as part of the Unit Management Committee and Unit Executive Committee.
6. To contribute intellectually and managerially towards coordinating large strategic funding opportunities such as infrastructure/strategy awards.
7. Support initiatives that aim to make research more sustainable.

External Contribution

1. To demonstrate good external citizenship by initiating and building LSHTM's links with appropriate external and international organisations, supporting LSHTM fund-raising and development activities and maintaining a strong national and international profile;
2. To promote knowledge translation and enterprise by exploiting academic knowledge beyond academia;
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4. To continue existing collaborations in the region and globally and initiate new ones.
5. To work towards and take leadership in strengthening a productive Unit-UVRI partnership.

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. To undertake and successfully complete the mandatory training required by LSHTM 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 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 PhD and an internationally recognised track record in virology, viral immunology, or viral epidemiology.
2. Proven experience of leading impactful, multidisciplinary research and securing significant competitive funding.
3. A strong record of strategic leadership, vision-setting, and managing collaborative research programmes.
4. A commitment to mentoring, capacity building, and fostering equitable partnerships in global health research.
5. A passion for collaborative, cross-cultural science with real-world impact.
6. Clear vision of a future research agenda
7. Evidence of ability to deliver high quality research-informed teaching at postgraduate level and supervised doctoral students to successful completion.
8. And understanding of the strategies for improving equity and inclusion in research and/or learning and teaching
9. Proven ability to obtain research funding from major funders, including salary recovery, and manage a significant portfolio of research projects.
10. Excellent track record of publishing as lead, senior and co-author in peer-reviewed outputs, as expected by the subject area/discipline in terms of types and volume of output; significant contributions to at least four outputs within the most recent 5 years which are internationally excellent and/or world leading²; supporting members of own research team to also meet their expectations for outputs.
11. Clear vision of a future research agenda.
12. An understanding of the strategies for improving equity and inclusion in research and/or learning and teaching.
13. Experience of leading and managing research teams.
14. Evidence of ability to deliver high quality research-informed teaching at post-graduate level and supervise doctoral students to successful completion.
15. Substantial evidence of recognition within external research community.

Desirable Criteria

1. Evidence of ability to forge productive, long-term collaborative research relationships.
2. Experience of innovation in teaching delivery and assessment.

² i.e. of a quality that would be rated highly in assessments of research quality such as those done by UK government, and in peer review processes used by funders

3. Experience of senior teaching management such as Programme Director, and/or Exam Board member, Periodic Review panel member etc.
4. Demonstrable evidence of improving equity and inclusion in research and/or learning and teaching.
5. Experience of engagement with national and/or international research and/or policy advisory bodies.
6. Demonstrate adaptability in research interests and undertake multidisciplinary research

Salary and Conditions of Appointment

The post is fixed term and full-time 35 hours per week, 1.0 FTE with an initial five-year term and a strong institutional commitment to long-term scientific leadership and renewal. The post is funded by the Medical Research Council (part of UK Research and Innovation) and is available immediately. The salary will be on the Professorial scale, in the range £74,139 - £117,538 per annum pro rata (inclusive of London Weighting).

The post is primarily based in Uganda, with active collaboration and travel to Glasgow.

You will hold an honorary academic position at the University of Glasgow, gaining access to extensive professional development and networking opportunities.

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 notarised 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: Aug 2025