

# RESEARCH ASSISTANT



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| <b>Job Title:</b>      | <b>Research Assistant</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Department:</b>     | Department of Infection Biology                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Faculty:</b>        | Faculty of Infectious and Tropical Diseases                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Location:</b>       | LSHTM Keppel Street                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>FTE:</b>            | 1.0 FTE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Grade:</b>          | G5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Accountable to:</b> | Head of Department through Principal Investigator (PI): Julius Hafalla                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Job Summary:</b>    | <p>We are seeking to appoint a Research Assistant to support research on the development and application of multiplex serological platforms to measure exposure and immunity to malaria, vaccine-preventable diseases and neglected tropical diseases. The post-holder will also have opportunities to contribute to molecular and cellular investigations of parasite and host responses.</p> <p>The Research Assistant will be based in the Department of Infection Biology at the London School of Hygiene &amp; Tropical Medicine. The role offers the chance to gain broad experience in high-throughput serology, molecular analyses and cellular immunology within a multidisciplinary and international research environment.</p> <p>The successful applicant will develop, optimise and run multiplex bead-based assays to quantify antibody responses to malaria and co-endemic pathogens, and will analyse resulting datasets using statistical and computational tools. They will also contribute to molecular workflows including DNA/RNA extraction, qPCR and sequencing preparation, and support cellular immunology studies such as flow cytometry.</p> <p>The post will therefore require technical competence in serological and molecular laboratory methods, together with strong organisational and communication skills to ensure effective collaboration within a diverse scientific team.</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

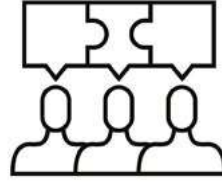
Our values establish how we aspire to achieve our mission both now and in the future - demonstrating what it means to work and study at LSHTM. Please visit our [LSHTM Values page](#) for further information.



**Act with  
integrity**



**Embrace  
difference**



**Work  
together**



**Create  
impact**

# Faculty Information

## Faculty of Infectious and Tropical Diseases

The vision of the Faculty of Infectious and Tropical Diseases is to deliver outstanding contributions to reduce the evolving disease burden related to infections and global health inequity. The range of disciplines represented is broad, including all laboratory-based research at LSHTM's London campus, and encompassing a "bench to boardroom" portfolio with research approaches from fundamental biology through clinical research to impact on policy and practice. It is headed by **José Bengoechea**, who is **Professor in Microbiology and Infectious Diseases**. The spectrum of diseases studied is wide; our main research interests include vector-borne diseases especially malaria; respiratory diseases including tuberculosis and bacterial pneumonia; enteric infections; HIV and other sexually transmitted infections; neglected tropical diseases including trachoma, leishmaniasis, schistosomiasis and trypanosomiasis; vaccine development and evaluation; and the prevention of blindness. The Faculty is organised into three research departments comprising: Clinical Research, Disease Control, and Infection Biology. Interdisciplinary research is a major strength, and we encourage collaboration between scientists in different research areas. The Faculty has close links with colleagues and collaborators in more than 100 countries. Our teaching programme includes MSc courses which are module in structure, both intensive taught in London and by distance learning; a variety of short courses and an [active doctoral programme](#) (PhD and DrPH). For further information on the Faculty see [here](#).

### ***Department of Clinical Research (Head: Professor Dave Moore)***

The Department of Clinical Research addresses infectious diseases of major public health importance in developing countries. Activities include trials of new therapies, vaccines and educational interventions; the development of new diagnostic tests; studies to elucidate the immunological and molecular correlates of pathogenesis and protective immunity, and to identify genetic polymorphisms conferring protection or susceptibility to infectious diseases; health services research which aims to identify the most efficient and cost-effective way to deliver health care; and health policy analysis. In addition to our many overseas collaborations, we have close links with the Hospital for Tropical Diseases, in purpose-built accommodation on the main UCL Hospital campus, five minutes walk from the School. The Wellcome Trust Bloomsbury Centre for Global Health Research is based in the Department, and supports Clinical Fellows at all levels, most of whom are based overseas.

The Department's main research interests include HIV and related infections; in particular, the interaction between HIV infection and tuberculosis, and other sexually transmitted diseases; malaria; trachoma; leprosy; diagnostic tests for resource limited settings; eye health; disability; and travel medicine.

### ***Department of Disease Control (Head: Professor Mary Cameron)***

The Department of Disease Control is a multidisciplinary, cross-cutting department, operating in a global context and committed to excellence in research, innovation, learning and engagement. We have an outstanding reputation for internationally competitive research and teaching excellence, with demonstrable impact in the control of diseases, worldwide. Our diverse scientific staff comprises entomologists, epidemiologists, mathematical modellers, geographers, public health engineers, hygiene specialists, social scientists, engineers, statisticians and clinical scientists. We also have a strong team of project administrators, coordinators, managers, and communication specialists, who provide expert support to our research programmes in the UK and overseas. We are a highly collaborative Department, with extensive partnerships and collaborations with researchers from many countries and organisations around the world, as well as internally, with multiple School Departments. Our work cuts across several School Centres such as the Vaccine Centre, the Malaria Centre, Centre for Evaluation and the MARCH Centre.

Our staff play influential roles as consultants and key advisors to organisations including the WHO, CDC, Malaria Consortium, Public Health England, Department of Health, DFID, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Royal Society, Research Councils, Academy of Medical Sciences, the World Bank, Governments and private sector manufacturers and innovators, amongst many

others. Our range of expertise provides us with an impressive set of tools for addressing the control of diseases that are insect-borne, water-borne or associated with poor hygiene – mostly in low- and middle-income countries. Much of our research is directed at current health policy issues and addressing gaps between policy and practice.

***Department of Infection Biology (Head: Professor Martin Hibberd)***

The Department of Infection Biology brings together pathogen molecular biology and immunology and infection research across the School. The Department benefits from state of the art facilities and strong collaborations, many of which are with partners in disease endemic countries.

We study the molecular biology and genetics of pathogens and interaction with their hosts, to improve understanding and control of infectious diseases and to understand the complex and dynamic ways by which pathogens modulate virulence and interact with the human host. Such a holistic approach will vastly increase the scope for the rationale of design of long-term intervention strategies to reduce the burden of infectious disease. In recent years such a mission has been significantly enhanced by the availability of whole genome sequences. The Department is involved in several pathogen genome projects, and post genome studies which facilitate understanding of complex parasites. The interpretation and exploitation of this basic information is the platform for numerous new avenues of research on pathogenesis, epidemiology and the evolution of virulence.

Our research in immunology and infection centres on analysis of the host response to infection at the molecular, cellular and population levels. The goals are to develop a greater understanding of basic mechanisms of immunological protection versus pathology, and to apply this knowledge to the development of immunological interventions and the identification of correlates of immune status. Our work involves application of state of the art cellular and molecular approaches to the in vitro analysis of pathogen-host cell interactions, to in vivo studies in models, and to the study of immunity at the population level in disease endemic areas. We also conduct translational research for the development and evaluation of diagnostic approaches to identify disease foci and monitor drug resistance

### **Teaching**

LSHTM offers 20 one year full-time taught programmes leading to the Master of Science (MSc) degree of the University of London and the Diploma of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (DLSHTM). The Faculty of Infectious and Tropical Diseases runs or contributes substantially to nine of these MSc programmes. In addition, the Faculty is responsible for the three-month Professional Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene and the Professional Diploma in Tropical Nursing. The Faculty also offers a range of specialist short courses lasting usually one or two weeks. LSHTM offers a further six MSc programmes by Distance Learning, with the Faculty responsible for the MSc Infectious Diseases.

### **Research Training**

The School offers two doctoral training programmes. The MPhil/PhD degrees are designed for those who wish to go on to a full time research career. The DrPH is directed towards those who expect their careers to be more in the practice of public health.

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. Develop, optimise and run multiplex bead-based Luminex assays for malaria and co-endemic diseases.
4. Assist in the curation and maintenance of protein and peptide libraries, including protein production.
5. Validate and screen antigen-coupled beads, ensuring assay optimisation, control development and QA/QC.
6. Analyse antibody response data using statistical and computational tools.
7. Opportunities to contribute to molecular workflows including DNA/RNA extraction, qPCR and sequencing preparation.
8. Opportunities to contribute to cellular immunology studies including flow cytometry.
9. Organise, analyse and report datasets from serological, molecular and cellular experiments.
10. Assist in the preparation of manuscripts, reports for funders and presentations at meetings.
11. Coordinate with collaborators on protocol harmonisation, data sharing and training.
12. Support laboratory management including inventories, equipment maintenance and compliance with biosafety standards.

#### **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. Take an active role in LSHTM academic life including seminars, journal clubs and laboratory meetings.

## External Contribution

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

## 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. BSc degree (MSc preferred) in biological or biomedical sciences or equivalent relevant experience
2. Practical experience with immunoassay techniques, particularly bead-based or multiplex platforms, with the ability to develop, optimise and run assays while ensuring quality assurance and control.
3. Proven ability to analyse experimental data using statistical or computational tools, maintain accurate records and prepare clear reports.
4. Strong organisational and interpersonal skills, with the ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing, work independently, and collaborate, as part of a research team.
5. Experience coordinating work with collaborators, including protocol harmonisation or training, and willingness to travel overseas partners when required.

### Desirable Criteria

6. Some experience of teaching
7. Experience in protein production and purification
8. Familiarity with molecular workflows such as DNA/RNA extraction and PCR, with the ability to apply these methods reliably in a research setting
9. Experience with cellular immunology techniques, including flow cytometry
10. Experience in disseminating findings through seminars, conference presentations and contributions to peer-reviewed publications
11. Experience with laboratory management, including reagent inventories

## Salary and Conditions of Appointment

The post is fixed term for 2 years and full-time 35 hours per week, 1.0 FTE. The post is funded by the Medical Research Council and is available from 02 Jan 2026. The salary will be on the LSHTM salary scale, Grade 5 in the range £39,984 - £45,728 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](mailto: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 but due to the salary range for this role not meeting the UKVI requirements, only applicants under certain circumstances may qualify for sponsorship for this role. Please refer to the details on the Skilled Worker visa pages to check if you are able to be paid below the [general threshold](#). Please indicate this in your application and proceed if you are able to meet the requirements.

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: Sept 2025