

# RESEARCH FELLOW



<b>Job Title:</b>	<b>Research Fellow</b>
<b>Department:</b>	Vaccines and Immunity Theme
<b>Faculty:</b>	MRCG at LSHTM
<b>Location:</b>	Fajara, The Gambia
<b>FTE:</b>	1 FTE
<b>Grade:</b>	6
<b>Accountable to:</b>	Vaccines and Immunity Theme Leader in the first instance.
<b>Job Summary:</b>	<p>The post-holder will lead a comprehensive economic evaluation of hepatitis B microarray patch (MAP) technology for the delivery of timely birth doses of the hepatitis B vaccine to prevent the vertical transmission of hepatitis B.</p> <p>The post holder is expected to use data from an ongoing hepatitis B MAP trial being undertaken at MRC Unit The Gambia as well as additional data collected in The Gambia and potentially in other countries to develop and refine appropriate mathematical models. Models will explore the cost per DALY averted from the use of MAPs to improve both the timeliness and coverage of birth dose hepatitis B vaccines and to establish thresholds for coverage and timeliness which will result in MAPs being cost-effective and cost saving.</p> <p>The post holder is also expected to be proficient in French (spoken and written) to facilitate regional collaborations and data collection across the region. For applicants without a PhD, opportunities to undertake a PhD within the project will be encouraged. Academic supervision of the post-holder will be led by Associate Professor Nick Scott, Head of Modelling and Biostatistics, Burnet Institute, Melbourne.</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

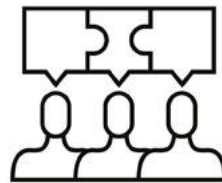
Our values establish how we aspire to achieve our mission both now and in the future - demonstrating what it means to work and study at LSHTM. Please visit our [LSHTM Values page](#) for further information.



**Act with  
integrity**



**Embrace  
difference**



**Work  
together**



**Create  
impact**

## Faculty Information

Established in 1947, the Medical Research Council in The Gambia has an international reputation for ground-breaking research into some of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in the tropics. The overall goal of the Unit is to improve the health of people in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC), particularly those in West- and sub-Saharan Africa by aiming for excellence in research, healthcare and training. The research programme of the Unit spans basic scientific research (immunology, microbiology, virology and molecular biology), clinical studies, large epidemiological studies, interventional trials, and translational research. The field and laboratory-based work draws on excellent research and clinical facilities and attracts significant diverse international funding. The Unit has about 150 scientists, clinicians and senior administrative staff from many parts of the world, as well as hosting visiting researchers, and over 400 support staff. There are also field stations – Basse, Keneba and Walikunda - each in a different ecological setting, providing varied research opportunities.

To reflect changes in national and global health priorities and new international funding opportunities the Unit's research portfolio has been organized under three themes: Disease Control & Elimination; Nutrition and Planetary Health; Vaccines & Immunity. These themes have been selected to target the health needs of LMIC to reinforce sub-regional and international collaborations and to address some of the major current priorities in Global Health research.

The Vaccines and Immunity Theme hosts a diverse range of projects including basic laboratory immunology, serology, microbiology and genomics, through early- and late phase vaccine trials, epidemiological, data, and social science research. We have an increasingly diverse programme of research covering pathogens and diseases of public health importance both globally and in West Africa including those with epidemic potential. We are also leading several clinical trial capacity-strengthening initiatives across West- and sub-Saharan African. Establishing new funded research collaborations in the sub-region and beyond is an important goal while continuing to build on and diversify our existing strengths locally. We have significant research funding from a diverse set of competitive international funding agencies.

The post-holder, working with external and internal academic supervisors will be expected to develop a research area in economic evaluation focused on Hepatitis B microarray patch technology in the first instance but with potential to expand to other areas in the future. A strong quantitative academic background applicable to this area is essential. The candidate should have an interest in quantitative methodological development and experience in programming in relevant software packages. Full academic support for the successful candidate will be provided. The post-holder is not expected to support other biostatistics work at MRCG as a matter of routine. At an appropriate point, the post holder is expected to lead the development of academic publications related to the work and will be supported to gain additional grant funding beyond the current post.

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 develop an academic framework for the economic evaluation of Hepatitis B microarray patches including aspects of data collection and developing and refining the latest mathematical modelling techniques and approaches to answer key research questions in the field.

#### **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.
3. To support the training of more junior researchers in the department with an interest in cost-effectiveness modelling and economic evaluation and who have the appropriate quantitative and programming skills

#### **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.

#### **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. A strong quantitative (mathematical/statistical) academic background and demonstrated commitment to quantitative research and methodological development.
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. A strong background in programming in relevant packages (R, Python etc)
8. Some experience in building and validating mathematical models for economic evaluation, including cost-effectiveness analysis, budget impact modeling, and threshold analysis using tools like R, Python, or Stata.
9. Experience working in West Africa or similar settings
10. Professional level fluency in French as well as English.

### 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.

## Salary and Conditions of Appointment

The post is fixed term until 31 December 2028 and full-time 35 hours per week. The post is funded by the MRC Unit The Gambia at LSHTM and is available immediately. The salary will be on the LSHTM scale, Grade 6 in the range £45,728 - £51,872 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 operates a Hybrid Working Framework which, alongside agreed service requirements, enables teams to work more flexibly where the role allows - promoting wellbeing and a better work/life balance. Please note that roles based in London are required to work on-site a minimum of two days per week,

## 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

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: Sept 2025