RESEARCH FELLOW

LONDON SCHOOL of HYGIENE &TROPICAL MEDICINE

Job Title:	**Research Fellow in Epidemiology & Population Health (x2)**
Department:	Public Health, Environment & Society
Faculty:	Public Health & Policy
Location:	Tavistock Place
FTE:	1.0 FTE
Grade:	G6
Accountable to:	Prof Alex Mold (HoD) through Prof Steven Cummins (PI)
Job Summary:	We are seeking to appoint two motivated and enthusiastic post-doctoral epidemiologists or population health researchers to join a team working on the Mandala Consortium in collaboration with the University of Cambridge and the wider consortium. The Mandala Consortium is a research project focusing on transforming urban food systems for planetary and population health. The postholders will conduct data analysis and prepare papers for publication using already collected and linked survey, consumer and environmental data. It would be useful (though not essential) if candidates had experience of deriving food environment exposures and be able undertake data linkage and analysis for a range of projects that describe and evaluate the impact of food system changes on food purchases and health outcomes. The successful candidates will ideally have skills in quantitative methods and some knowledge of public health research linked to diet/food. For one of the two posts we would particularly encourage applications from those with experience in longitudinal data analysis including the use of time-series and panel data.

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.

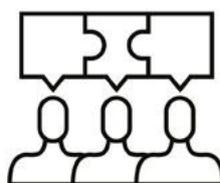To find out more please visit our Introducing LSHTM page.

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 Public Health, Environments and Society (PHES)

The Department of Public Health, Environments and Society (PHES) focuses on the social and environmental determinants of health and the evaluation and analysis of public health policies and interventions.

We have a strong multi-disciplinary focus, with researchers from the fields of epidemiology, health economics, health promotion, history, international relations, geography, mathematical modelling, medicine and ethics, political science, sociology, anthropology and statistics, among others. Our research programme includes work in both high and low income countries, and integrates environmental, social and policy issues at international, national and local levels.

General research interests and strengths include drugs, alcohol, violence and health behaviour; globalisation; public health history; sexual and reproductive health; food and transport systems; HIV and other infectious diseases (including COVID-19); young people's health; evaluating the health impacts of social and public health interventions; the commercial determinants of health (CDOH); built environments and health; and environmental epidemiology, planetary health and climate change.

We have more than 30 research students working towards PhD and DrPH degrees across the breadth of our research interests. Staff also contribute to the school's Master's Degree Teaching Programme, in particular the MSc Public Health.

Population Health Innovation Lab (PHI-Lab)

Hosted within PHES is the Population Health Innovation Lab (PHI-Lab), where this role is located. PHI-Lab, co-directed by Professor Steven Cummins and Dr Laura Cornelsen, is dedicated to using expertise in epidemiology and public health, economics, sociology, evaluation and geography to understand and change the social, economic and environmental system drivers of population health. We have expertise in diet, food systems and health, and the socio-environmental drivers of obesity and NCDs.

We are a dynamic and social research group committed to supporting and developing the careers of talented post-doctoral researchers. The team currently consists of 8 academic staff, 5 PhD students and 3 Honorary Staff, making it one of the larger groups of researchers in this area in the UK. Current research is focused on understanding the social and economic drivers of food choice using big data (Cornelsen, Kalbus, Uilian); the built, digital, natural environment and diet and physical activity (Eling, Cummins, Basu); complex systems thinking and the use of agent-based models in population health (Cummins, Karapici, Greener), the evaluation of the impact of policy interventions such as banning junk food advertising, reducing takeaway proliferation, and taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages on diet (Cornelsen, Cummins, Savory, Yau) and the impact of food system interventions on diet and sustainability (Cornelsen, Cummins, Savory, Yau, Kalbus). A range of funders including MRC, UKPRP, ESRC, BBSRC and NIHR supports our work. PHI-Lab is also affiliated to the NIHR School of Public Health Research @ LSHTM (SPHR@L) where we run a range of joint projects.

The Role

Phi-Lab@LSHTM is offering an exciting career-development opportunity for two post-doctoral researchers with an interest in food systems and health to join the team. We are

seeking to appoint 2 x Research Fellows with a track record in epidemiology and population health. The postholders will conduct data analysis and prepare papers for publication using already collected and linked survey, consumer and environmental data generated from the Mandala Consortium. It would be useful (though not essential) if candidates had experience of deriving food environment exposures and be able undertake data linkage and analysis for a range of projects that describe and evaluate the impact of food system changes on food purchases and health outcomes.

The successful candidates will ideally have skills in quantitative methods and some knowledge of public health research linked to diet/food. For **one** of the two posts we would particularly encourage applications from those with experience in longitudinal data analysis of large-scale administrative, consumer and survey data and/or generating and linking neighbourhood environment exposure data to routine data using geographic identifiers. Expertise and understanding of natural experiments and analysis techniques such as interrupted-time series and difference-in-difference analysis would be an advantage.

The Mandala Consortium is directed by Professor Martin White (Cambridge) and led at LSHTM by Professor Steven Cummins. The Mandala Consortium is a research project focusing on transforming urban food systems for planetary and population health. The Research Fellows will be based at LSHTM and supervised by Cummins, with support from White and the wider Mandala team.

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. You will work closely with Cummins and White and the wider Mandala team to co-ordinate and ensure delivery of the programme of work scientifically and operationally, against objectives, on time and within budget. As part of this work you will be expected to:

    a. Contribute to development of statistical analysis plans, technical protocols, workflows and study data user guides;
    b. Create, link and integrate diverse data sets (using geographic identifiers) to create food environment exposures that will be subsequently linked to other

consumer, administrative and survey data held in a secure research environment.
c. Undertake cross-sectional and longitudinal analyses and interpretation of data with a focus on describing and evaluating the impact of food system changes on food purchases, environmental and health outcomes
d. Write up results in the form of peer-reviewed publications as first author, and contribute to other collaborative publications
e. Disseminate results to academic and non-academic audiences.

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 provide ad-hoc methodological and analytical mentoring/support to colleagues in PHI-Lab and the wider Mandala consortium

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;

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.

4. To acquire/update skills in epidemiological, statistical, evaluation and data science methods as applied to population health research.

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. Experience that utilizes epidemiological, statistical and/or health data science methods.
3. Some knowledge and understanding of population health research with evidence of training in epidemiological and/or data science and/or statistical methods with (for one post) proven expertise in longitudinal quantitative data analysis, including analysis of panel data and ITS/DiD
4. Knowledge of generating, linking, and analysing neighbourhood environment data and experience in the analysis of epidemiological data.
5. Proficiency in the use of software and coding languages appropriate for data handling and statistical analyses for example Stata, R, Python or other languages and experience in large-scale database management
6. Ability to work at pace and to short timescales, when required.

7. Contributions to written output, preferably peer-reviewed, as expected by the subject area/discipline in terms of types and volume of outputs.
8. Proven ability to work independently, as well as collaboratively as part of a research team, and proven ability to meet research deadlines.
9. Evidence of excellent interpersonal skills, including the ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing
10. Evidence of good organizational skills, including effective time management.

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. Understanding and appreciation of methods underpinning public health evaluation including using natural experiments.
5. Some experience/understanding of spatial analysis

Salary and Conditions of Appointment

The posts are full-time 35 hours per week, 1.0 FTE and fixed-term until 31 March 2027. The posts are funded by the Biotechnology & Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and are available from 01 April 2026.

The salary will be on the LSHTM salary scale, Grade 6 £45,728 per annum pro rata (inclusive of London Weighting). The posts will be subject to LSHTM terms and conditions of service. Annual leave entitlement is 30 working days per year, pro rata for part-time staff. In addition, 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.

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: January 2026