

RESEARCH FELLOW



Job Title:	GenAI Research Fellow
Department:	Department of Public Health, Environments & Society
Faculty:	Faculty of Public Health and Policy
Location:	London (hybrid working framework applies)
FTE:	1.0 FTE
Grade:	G6
Accountable to:	Head of Department through Principal Investigator (PI – Dr Amrit Kaur
Job Summary:	The Research Fellow will play a central role in the Digital Determinants of Health Hub, a Wellcome Trust-funded programme examining how digital environments influence adolescent health and wellbeing. The project examines the causal relationship between social media content exposure and adolescent health-risk behaviours using novel multimodal GenAI and social media data science approaches. The work has strong policy relevance, including engagement with the UK Department for Science, Innovation and Technology and wider national stakeholders focused on children's online safety. The postholder will lead the technical development and implementation of a hybrid human–GenAI analytical pipeline designed to identify alcohol-related, drug-related, and antisocial behaviour content across TikTok data donations. The Research Fellow will support the full computational workflow, including privacy-engineered data ingestion, human annotation, multimodal embedding generation, model training and refinement, and large-scale inference using secure research environments and high-performance computing infrastructure. Working closely with the Principal Investigator, Dr Amrit Kaur Purba, and interdisciplinary collaborators, the Research Fellow will develop and implement reproducible analytical pipelines for multimodal AI research using video, audio, and textual social media data. The role will involve contributing to coding framework development, model validation, quality assurance procedures, and the generation of participant-level exposure variables for longitudinal analysis. The postholder will contribute to the interpretation and reporting of findings, supporting manuscript preparation and dissemination of results through peer-reviewed publications, conference presentations, technical protocols, and policy-relevant outputs. The Digital Determinants of Health Hub, collaborates closely with partners including the University of Bath, the University of Glasgow, and national policy stakeholders to deliver interdisciplinary and policy-relevant research examining digital environments and adolescent health

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

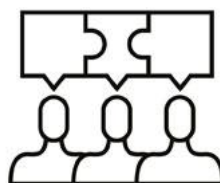
Our values establish how we aspire to achieve our mission both now and in the future - demonstrating what it means to work and study at LSHTM. Please visit our [LSHTM Values page](#) for further information.



**Act with
integrity**



**Embrace
difference**



**Work
together**



**Create
impact**

Faculty Information

The School is divided into three academic faculties, of which the Faculty of Public Health & Policy is responsible for research and teaching in the policy, planning and evaluation of health programmes and services. Its interests are both national and international, encompassing industrialized and low and middle-income countries. The Faculty has three research departments:

- Global Health and Development
- Health Services Research and Policy
- Public Health, Environments and Society

In the Faculty there are about 50 Professional Services staff members, and 280 academic staff drawn from a variety of disciplines including medicine, statistics, epidemiology, sociology, economics, anthropology, operational research, psychology, nursing and history. Each department is responsible for its own research. The School has adopted a rotating system of management for its academic departments and faculties. The management of a department is under the control of the Department Head, appointed by the Director for a period of three years in the first instance. The Faculty Head is appointed in a similar manner but for an initial period of up to five years.

The Faculty of Public Health and Policy is responsible for organizing a one-year Master's course in Public Health, which allows students to take either a general MSc in Public Health, or to follow one of several more specialised streams: Health Services Management, Health Promotion, Environmental Health or Health Services Research. The Faculty also jointly teaches the MSc Public Health in Developing Countries and MSc Control of Infectious Disease (with the Faculties of Infectious and Tropical Diseases and Epidemiology and Population Health), and MSc Health Policy, Planning and Financing (jointly with the London School of Economics). Master's courses are organized in a modular format across the whole School. One of the growing areas of Faculty teaching is distance-based learning, with MScs in Public Health and Global Health Policy. In 2019/20, over 370 students were registered for our face-to-face Masters programmes and 1367 students were registered for distance learning MScs.

The Faculty has also reorganized and expanded its research degree (MPhil/PhD; DrPH) training. Currently there are about 164 students and 36 staff members registered for a research degree.

Department of Public Health, Environments and Society (PHES)

The Department (headed by Professor Alex Mold) is one of three in the Faculty of Public Health and Policy and based in Tavistock Place. PHES carries out internationally renowned research into the social and environmental determinants of health and the evaluation and analysis of public health policy. It has a strong multi-disciplinary focus, with researchers working in the fields of sociology, anthropology, geography, history, epidemiology, and evaluation. Its principal areas of research include: drug use and health behaviour; sexual and reproductive health; young people's health; the social determinants of health; social interventions in health; the built environment and health; the environment, climate change and health; and history and health.

RESEARCH FELLOW



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).

The postholder will work closely with the project team and contribute to engagement with the project's **Policy Advisory Group and Youth Advisory Group**, helping to ensure that analyses and outputs are informed by policy perspectives and lived experience.

Hybrid working applies in line with LSHTM policy, with a minimum of two days per week on site in London.

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, implement, and refine multimodal GenAI and machine learning pipelines for the analysis of social media and digital trace data, including contributing to privacy-engineered workflows, multimodal annotation frameworks, codebook development, model training and refinement, large-scale inference pipelines, and reproducible analytical workflows within secure research environments

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 contribute to the development of training materials, technical documentation, and interdisciplinary knowledge exchange relating to multimodal AI, computational

social science, digital epidemiology, and social media data science methodologies.

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. To contribute to the development and maintenance of secure-by-design research practices, computational workflows, annotation procedures, and collaborative working across LSHTM secure infrastructure, HPC services, and interdisciplinary research teams.

External Contribution

1. To demonstrate good external citizenship by contributing to learned society/conference events, journal and grant reviews etc;
2. To contribute to external engagement activities including collaboration with policy stakeholders, technical partners, policy and youth advisory groups, and international research communities working in digital health, computational social science, social media data science, and AI-enabled public health research.

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 maintain and further develop expertise in multimodal AI, machine learning, social media data science, secure computational research methods, and emerging approaches relevant to digital behavioral and public 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.
6. To work in accordance with LSHTM data governance, information security, ethical research, and secure data handling policies when processing sensitive digital trace, multimedia, and social media data within secure research environments

RESEARCH FELLOW



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 computer science, artificial intelligence, machine learning, computational social science, data science, or a related computational discipline.
2. Relevant **practical, hands-on and theoretical/methodological experience** in multimodal AI, machine learning, computational social science, data science, computer science, digital epidemiology, or a related quantitative/computational research field involving social media or digital trace data. This should include **direct experience implementing and applying computational methods**, including: multimodal content analysis (principally text and audio, with selective video analysis); human annotation and codebook development (including inter-rater reliability and validation practices); understanding of the relative cost, maturity, limitations and scalability of different modalities; social media content classification; embedding generation; model training, evaluation and refinement; large-scale inference pipelines; and reproducible computational workflows using secure and/or high-performance computing environments.
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. Experience developing and implementing computational analytical pipelines using programming languages such as Python, including familiarity with machine learning frameworks, multimodal foundation models, version control, reproducible research practices, and/or GPU or HPC-based computing environments
8. Proven ability to manage complex analytical workstreams and deliver high-quality research outputs to tight deadlines.

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. Knowledge of digital health, social media research, computational social science, or online harms research in relation to adolescent health and wellbeing.
5. Experience contributing to policy-facing reports, stakeholder engagement activities, technical guidance documents, or dissemination activities for interdisciplinary research projects.

6. Commitment to open science, reproducible research practices, and transparent computational workflows.

Salary and Conditions of Appointment

The post is full-time 35 hours per week, 1.0 FTE and fixed term for 19 months with the possibility of an extension, subject to funding. The post is funded by the Wellcome Trust and is available from 01 January 2027. The salary will be on the LSHTM scale, Grade 6 in the range £45,728- £50,854 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 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