

RESEARCH ASSISTANT



Job Title:	Research Assistant in Food & Health (Quantitative)
Department:	Public Health, Environments and Society
Faculty:	Public Health and Policy
Location:	Tavistock Place 2, London
FTE:	1.0 FTE
Grade:	G5
Accountable to:	Prof Alex Mold (HoD) through Dr Maddy Power (PI)
Job Summary:	To support the work of a Wellcome Trust Research Fellowship on food insecurity inequalities and mental health 1. Undertake analysis of quantitative data on food insecurity, food bank use and mental health. 2. Assisting with the preparation of manuscripts for publication and presentation. 3. Supporting impact activities, including co-design and organizing meetings with public, third sector and government partners 4. Writing and preparing materials to support the above activities.

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

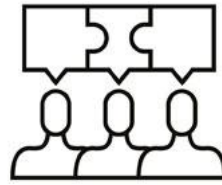
Our values establish how we aspire to achieve our mission both now and in the future - demonstrating what it means to work and study at LSHTM. Please visit our [LSHTM Values page](#) for further information.



**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.

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. To analyze a large quantitative dataset on food insecurity, food aid use, and health;
4. To prepare and write papers and reports based on the above activity for internal dissemination and distribution, and for peer-reviewed publication;
5. To liaise and co-ordinate impact activity with public, third sector, and government partners, including DWP, Trussell, and Independent Food Aid Network;
6. Any other roles to support the project and dissemination of the findings, as appropriate.

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;

External Contribution

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

RESEARCH ASSISTANT



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. A relevant first degree in the field of or related to public health, social policy, sociology, social research methods.
2. Relevant experience in analysing large quantitative datasets and writing up findings for publication.
3. Relevant analytical skills in quantitative data analysis and statistics.
4. Evidence of good organisational skills, including effective time management.
5. Proven ability to work independently, as well as collaboratively, as part of a research team.
6. Evidence of excellent interpersonal skills, including the ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing.
7. Ability to use routine computing and software packages for analysing data, writing and presenting (eg., STATA, SPSS, MS Office or equivalent)

Desirable Criteria

8. Some experience of teaching
9. Some experience of working on poverty, inequality and/or food insecurity.
10. A commitment to social justice.
11. MA/MSc degree in a poverty, inequality or food-related discipline across the social and public health sciences or humanities either awarded or imminent or equivalent training.

Salary and Conditions of Appointment

The post is fixed-term until 29 April 2027 and full-time 35 hours per week, 1.0 FTE. The post is funded by the Wellcome Trust and is available from 01 October 2026. The salary will be on the LSHTM 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 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 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: January 2026