

RESEARCH ASSISTANT OR RESEARCH FELLOW



Job Title:	Research Assistant or Research Fellow in Health Economics (x2 posts)
Department:	Global Health and Development
Faculty:	Public Health Policy
Location:	15-17 Tavistock Place, London
FTE:	1.0
Grade:	Research Assistant Grade 5 or Research Fellow Grade 6
Accountable to:	Head of Department through Principal Investigator (PI) Anna Vassall
Job Summary:	<p>These posts will work to support the Evaluation of Social and Public Health Evaluation group across a number of projects. The posts will work on a mixture of four areas of work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Co-designing and conducting literature reviews and related work under the Exemplars in Global Health initiative. The initiative is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and comprises different projects aimed at assessing and understanding health systems performance. b) Co-designing and conducting literature reviews and related work on the economics of COVID. c) Supporting the creation and analysis of a global dataset on costs related to Tuberculosis, including descriptive and econometric analysis of cost functions d) Supporting the collection of data as part of trials on cost-effectiveness of interventions to address infectious disease in partnership with partners in low- and middle-income countries <p>The post holder (s) will work with the PI (Prof Anna Vassall) as part of a multidisciplinary team. The line manager will be either Dr Sedona Sweeney or Fiammetta Bozzani.</p>

GENERAL INFORMATION

The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine is a world-leading centre for research and postgraduate education in public and global health. 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.

Founded in 1899, the School has expanded in recent years at its two main sites on Keppel Street and Tavistock Place. Our staff, students and alumni work in more than 150 countries in government, academia, international agencies and health services.

Research income has grown to more than £180 million per year from national and international funding sources including UK government and research councils, the European Union, the Wellcome Trust, Gates Foundation and other philanthropic sources.

Our diverse research talents, skills and experience, underpin our position as a leader in public and global health. These range from the molecular to the global, the theoretical to the applied, the analytical to the political. Our staff are conducting research in more than 100 countries.

We have 3,300 staff based all around the world with core hubs in London and at the MRC Units in

The Gambia and Uganda, which joined LSHTM in February 2018. Our outstanding, diverse and committed staff make an impact where it is most needed - deploying research in real time in response to crises, developing innovative programmes for major health threats, or training the next generations of public and global health leaders and researchers.

Working in partnership is central to achieving our mission. Our strategic collaborations in the UK and across high-, middle- and low-income countries deliver health and socioeconomic benefits across the world, especially in the most disadvantaged communities.

LSHTM is also a member of the M8 Alliance of Academic Health Centers, Universities and National Academies, the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region, and the Consortium of Universities for Global Health.

We deliver research-led educational programmes to future health leaders, managers and researchers across the world. We have more than 1,200 face-to-face Master's and Doctoral students, 3,000 studying by distance learning, and 1,000 each year on short courses and continuous professional development. Our free online courses are studied by more than 70,000 participants globally.

LSHTM performs strongly in various global university league tables. In the 2019 CWTS Leiden Ranking LSHTM is ranked the UK's top university for the proportion of academic research with women listed as authors, first in Europe for publishing open access research, and first in Europe and eighth in the world for research impact in sciences (for the proportion of its total publications ranking in the top 10% of most cited research).

In the US News Best Global Universities Ranking 2019, we ranked ninth in the UK overall and 13th in the world in the fields of social sciences and public health. We ranked 27th for medicine in the 2019 QS World University Rankings.

In 2017, the inaugural Center for World University Rankings by Subject placed LSHTM first in the world for tropical medicine research, second for parasitology and seventh for infectious diseases, public, environment and occupational health, and social sciences and biomedical.

LSHTM was named University of the Year 2016 by Times Higher Education and awarded a Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education in 2017 in recognition of our response to the 2014 Ebola epidemic in West Africa. LSHTM does not appear in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings as universities are excluded if they do not teach undergraduates.

We seek to foster and sustain a creative and supportive working environment based upon an ethos of respect and rigorous scientific enquiry. We embrace and value the diversity of our staff and student population and seek to promote equality as an essential element in contribution to improving health worldwide.

LSHTM is one of around 20 specialist institutions that receive institution specific funding from the Office for Students (OfS). This funding recognises the additional costs that LSHTM incurs because of its unique range of teaching, specialist facilities, and the scale of its contributions to national and international agencies.

Faculty of Public Health and Policy

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 Global Health and Development (GHD)

The department conducts novel and policy-relevant research and training that concerns health issues with a global reach, predominantly from the perspective of low- and middle-income country development. There are approximately 150 staff and 100 research degree students, with total grants funding of over £35m spread over a range of funders including research councils, UK and overseas charities, the European Union, Department for International Development and others. Academic Staff come from a wide range of disciplines including; economics, epidemiology, mathematics, law, politics, social policy and policy analysis, sociology and anthropology and are grouped into two units and a number of thematic research groups.

Evaluation of Social and Population Health Interventions (ESPHI)

[ESPHI](#) is a research group within GHD. Members of ESPHI are health economists, social epidemiologists and disease modellers collaborate to improve global health. We work across a wide variety of diseases issues, including infectious diseases such as visceral leishmaniasis, malaria, tuberculosis and HIV and maternal health. We have a specific interest in evaluating interventions that bridge social, behavioural and health action, such as projects to prevent violence against women and girls, improve the welfare of female sex workers and increase HIV self-testing in southern Africa.

We design and implement evaluations that address the question “whether” to intervene, and “how” to intervene to improve population health and welfare. Our focus is quantitative research methods, particularly those that link social epidemiology, behavioural economics, mathematical

modelling and economic evaluation. We are specialists in developing disease, behavioural and economic models that pull in information and processes from a range of spheres from biology and human behaviour to economics and health systems. We emphasise policy impact, and regularly engage in advisory bodies on methods, policy and priority setting in global health.

PROJECTS

These two positions are entry level positions into the ESPHI research team of economists, with potential for continuation based on performance and funding availability. The economists in the group have a strong track record on economic evaluations in global health. The post holders will work on a range of projects during the six-month period.

The portfolio of duties outlined below will vary in accordance with the detailed expectations of the role (attached), which may be varied from time to time, and agreed at your annual Performance and Development Review (PDR).

The portfolio of duties outlined below will vary in accordance with the detailed expectations of the role (attached), 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

Research Assistant

1. To undertake high quality research as directed by your line manager, including contributing to drafting grant proposals and peer-reviewed and other outputs;
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 School policies;
3. To contribute to peer-reviewed publications
4. To contribute to data collation, analysis and write up of systematic reviews
5. To conduct analyses of secondary cost data.

Research Fellow

1. To undertake high quality research & scholarship, including contributing to drafting major grant proposals and/or leading on drafting small grant proposals;
2. To contribute to peer-reviewed publications, including as lead author;
3. To make a contribution to research degree 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 School policies;
5. To contribute to data collation, analysis and write-up relevant to systematic reviews;
6. To conduct analyses of secondary cost data;
7. To support on-going data collection and field workers;

EDUCATION

Research Assistant

1. To participate in some aspects of the School's Education Programme or educational outreach activities;

Research Fellow

1. To contribute to the delivery of high quality, 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 the School's education, by participating in the development of new and updated learning and teaching materials or approaches;

INTERNAL CONTRIBUTION

Research Assistant

1. To undertake activities that support the Department, Faculty or the School;
2. To participate in the School's PDR process;

Research Fellow

1. To undertake activities that support the Department, Faculty or the School;
2. To participate in the School's PDR process

EXTERNAL CONTRIBUTION

Research Assistant

1. To demonstrate good external citizenship by supporting the external academic and practice communities;
2. To participate in meetings sharing work with the study funders (Gates Ventures and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation), in-country study partners and other stakeholders relevant to the study).

Research Fellow

1. To demonstrate good external citizenship by contributing to learned society/conference events, journal and grant reviews etc...
2. To participate in meetings sharing work with the study funders (Gates Ventures and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation), in-country study partners and other stakeholders relevant to the study)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING

Research Assistant

1. To keep up-to-date with the latest research/thinking in your academic field and with changes to pedagogic practice within the School 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 the School as appropriate to the role;

Research Fellow

1. To keep up to date with the latest research/thinking in your academic field and with changes to pedagogic practice within the School 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 the School 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 the School 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 the School's best interests;
2. Treat School staff, students and visitors with courtesy and respect at all times;
3. Comply fully with School 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 the School's values (as set out in the School Strategy document);
5. Act as ambassadors for the School when hosting visitors or attending external events.

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.

[FEB 2020]

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:

Research Assistant

1. MSc degree in health economics (or a Master's degree with a strong focus on health economics OR a first degree in economics with a Master's degree in public health/health sciences OR a Master's degree with a strong focus on health policy analysis/priority setting and qualitative research methods
2. Relevant experience in conducting systematic literature reviews, data collation and analysis of economic data
3. Evidence of good organisational skills, including effective time management.
4. Proven ability to work independently, as well as collaboratively as part of a research team.
5. Evidence of excellent interpersonal skills, including the ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing.
6. Relevant computer/analytical skills.
7. An interest in pursuing a career in global health and willingness to travel in the event of a lifting of current pandemic restrictions.
8. An interest in pursuing an academic career in economic evaluation or priority setting related to the health sector.

Research Fellow

1. A postgraduate degree, ideally a doctoral degree in health economics (or a Master's degree with a strong focus on health economics OR a first degree in economics with a Master's degree in public health/health sciences OR a Master's degree with a strong focus on health policy analysis/priority setting and qualitative research methods
2. Relevant experience in conducting systematic literature reviews, data collation and analysis of economic data
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. Track record of co-producing research with global partners
8. An interest in pursuing a career in global health and willingness to travel in the event of a lifting of current pandemic restrictions.
9. An interest in pursuing an academic career in economic evaluation or priority setting related to the health sector

DESIRABLE CRITERIA

Research Assistant

1. Some experience of teaching

Research Fellow

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. A PhD in health economics (or with a strong focus on health economics) or health policy analysis

E-Essential: Requirement without which the job could not be done

D-Desirable: Requirements that would enable the candidate to perform the job well

SALARY AND CONDITIONS OF APPOINTMENT

The post is fixed-term to 31st July 2021. The salary will be on the Academic scale, Grade 5 or 6 scale in the range £34,854 - £45,437 per annum (inclusive of London Weighting). The post will be subject to the LSHTM terms and conditions of service. There is a possibility of extending the contract subject to the candidate's availability and skills.

Applications should be made on-line via our website at <http://jobs.lshtm.ac.uk>. Applications should also include the names and email contacts of 2 referees who can be contacted immediately if shortlisted. Online applications will be accepted by the automated system until 10pm of the closing date. Any queries regarding the application process may be addressed to jobs@lshtm.ac.uk. Please quote reference PHP-GHD-2021-06.

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" will not be considered acceptable. 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

The School 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 at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-skilled-worker>

Date amended: Dec 2020

Academic Expectations: Research Assistant

Examples of expected types of activities are listed; the selection of activities will vary from year to year and not all activities in each category would necessarily be done in any one year. The statement in each shaded heading summarises the general expectations for contributions in each category. Given the nature of employment as a Research Assistant, it is expected that most activity will focus on knowledge generation, but some activity in other areas is desirable and will be required for career progression.

<i>Knowledge generation: High quality support for, and contribution to, research</i>
<i>Research and scholarship</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Undertaking research, as directed by line manager• Contributions to funding applications including supporting more senior staff in completing applications• Contributing to peer-reviewed outputs as expected by the subject area/discipline in terms of types of output• Poster/oral presentations at conferences• Social media contributions such as twitter, blogs, web-based media or webinars <i>Doctoral degree supervision</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None expected though involvement in advisory activities/roles or provision of practical skills training is encouraged where relevant <i>Research management, leadership and support</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Effective management of own time and activities• Supporting the administration of projects he/she is employed on, eg taking meeting minutes <i>Professional development</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appropriate courses and other development activities, referenced to RDF• Especially for lab-based disciplines: where the length, nature and funding source of the position permit, to apply for and, if accepted, undertake a doctoral degree (if not already acquired).
<i>Education: Participation in educational activities¹</i>
<i>Teaching and assessment</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited participation in some aspects of the School's Education Programme or education outreach activities e.g. contributions to taught courses, research methods training, mentoring school pupils on outreach programmes <i>Educational development and innovation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited contributions to educational innovations or developments, e.g. helping to update the content or delivery of a course or module <i>Educational leadership and management</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None expected <i>Professional development</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Formal study/training and/or other activities that develop educational knowledge and expertise, referenced to UKPSF
<i>Internal contribution: Support to the academic environment in the Department or beyond</i>
<i>Internal citizenship</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supporting Department/Faculty/Centre/School events or special interest groups; organising seminars/lab meetings/journal clubs; group or departmental social organising; support to Athena Swan activities; support to external partnerships <i>General leadership and management roles</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None expected but credit can be given if undertaken
<i>External contribution: Support to the external academic community</i>

¹ it is accepted that some RA roles and/or funding make it difficult to give time to Educational activities, but some degree of engagement is encouraged

External citizenship

- Involvement in journal or book reviews, if opportunities arise
- Sharing examples of good practice (e.g. contributing to discipline-specific interest group or professional bodies)

Knowledge translation and enterprise: not expected but options include

- Collection of evidence of research impact for impact case studies (e.g. policy records, correspondence with policy makers, media highlights)
- Engagement with policy/practice/industry/NGO communities and with the general public

Academic Expectations: Research Fellow

Examples of expected types of activities are listed; the selection of activities will vary from year to year and not all activities in each category would necessarily be done in any one year. The statement in each shaded heading summarises the general expectations for contributions in each category. Given the nature of employment as a Research Fellow, it is expected that most activity will focus on knowledge generation, but some activity in other areas is required and will support career progression.

.Knowledge generation: Independent contributions and a clear trajectory towards excellence as an academic researcher

Research and scholarship

- Undertaking research
- Working with PIs to draft grant proposals and/or leading writing of small grants, work packages or sections of larger proposals or personal fellowship applications
- Contributing to peer-reviewed outputs, including as first author, as expected by the subject area/discipline in terms of types of output
- Poster/oral presentations at relevant conferences, translation of research findings into educational materials
- Social media contributions such as twitter, blogs, web-based media or webinars

Doctoral degree supervision

- For RFs with Doctorate, some contribution to doctoral degree supervision is encouraged (e.g. specialist skills training; ad hoc advice; advisory committees). RFs without a Doctorate may also advise in areas of specialist knowledge²

Research management, leadership and support

- Effective management of own time and activities
- Management of small research grants or elements of larger grants, including management of data collection and relationships with research collaborators, support to grants management

Professional development

- Courses and other professional development activities, referenced to RDF
- Where the length, nature and funding source of the position permit, to apply for and, if accepted, undertake a doctoral degree (if not already acquired)

Education: Basic competence in teaching and assessment

Teaching and assessment

- Research-informed teaching and assessment contributions (e.g. contributions to modules, MSc project supervision)

Educational development and innovation

- Contributing to the development of new educational materials, learning opportunities or assessments approaches

Education leadership and management

- None expected

Professional development

- Participation in professional development activities referenced to UKPSF (e.g. HEA, PGCILT, preparation for doctoral degree supervision, shadowing more experienced colleagues)

Internal contribution: Contributions to School functioning and development

Internal citizenship

- Contributing to at least one Department, Faculty, School, or Centre event or special interest group in any one year;
- Supporting external School collaborations/partnerships (beyond own research or education role) where relevant

School leadership and management roles

- None expected but credit can be given if undertaken

² Such RFs are expected to be registered for a doctorate

External contribution: Contribution beyond the School

External citizenship

- Contributing to learned society/conference events, journal and grant reviews etc *Knowledge translation and enterprise: not expected but options include:*
- Collecting evidence of research impact for impact case studies (e.g. policy records, correspondence with policy makers, media highlights)
- Engaging with policy/practice/industry/NGO communities and the general public
- Supporting MOOCs/OERs or other (e.g. educational) outreach