



St George's, University of London
Population Health Research Institute
Research Fellow in Environmental Epidemiology

Ref: 433-24

JOB DESCRIPTION

Post Title	Research Fellow in Environmental Epidemiology
Grade	SGUL 6
Contract type	36 months fixed term
Responsible to	Institute Director - Population Health Research Institute
Accountable to	Charlotte Clark, Professor of Environmental Epidemiology, Section of Environment and Social Epidemiology
Responsible for	Not applicable in the first instance
Liases with	Research Institute staff, study collaborators

Overall purpose of job

Population Health Research Institute (PHRI) are seeking to appoint a Research Fellow in Environmental Epidemiology for three years from 1 September 2024 or as soon after.

The post holder will primarily work as a researcher on a study funded by Heathrow Airport Limited, managed by the National Institute of Health Research Public Health Research Programme, which is examining the effectiveness of a primary school insulation scheme to reduce aircraft noise exposure on children's health and learning. The project is led by Professor Charlotte Clark and involves collaborations with the University of Glasgow and Anderson Acoustics.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

The post would suit an individual with quantitative research experience in epidemiology, psychology, population health, quantitative social science, or an allied discipline.



The post holder will spend their time conducting research activities on a grant looking at the effect of noise insulation in schools on children's learning and wellbeing. They will be expected to be confident in handling large longitudinal datasets (e.g., National Pupil Database) and applying longitudinal statistical methods. The post holder will be expected to co-manage and be part of a team conducting primary data collection in schools. The post holder is expected to contribute to all project outputs, including data governance, academic journal papers, project reports, policy briefs and presentations of project findings to academic and non-academic audiences. The post holder will need to collaborate with a range of project stakeholders including academic collaborators, data holders, schools, parents, and children.

The post holder will be proactively supported to develop their expertise and research profile throughout the project. The postholder will help promote a collegiate and positive working atmosphere and stimulating environment that will attract further research staff of the highest quality, as well as good postgraduate research students. The post holder will be expected to adhere to open science practices which foster high-quality, reproducible, and transparent research.

It is expected that staff working at St George's, University of London will be involved in our mentoring and tutoring activities, as appropriate, as well as supporting admissions, student recruitment and access and widening participation activities (MMI interviews, Open Days, school visits, clearing etc) where applicable. All academic staff are expected to act as a personal tutor.

You are also expected to undertake other activities appropriate to your grade as directed by your manager. This job description reflects the present requirements of the post. As duties and responsibilities change, the job description will be reviewed and amended in consultation with the post holder from time to time. St George's, University of London aims to provide opportunities for all its employees to develop the skills required to be successful in their role and to further develop their careers.

St George's, University of London, is committed to the [San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment \(DORA\) principles](#).

The postholder will be encouraged to take opportunities for continuing personal and professional development, both within the University and externally where appropriate. The position is available as a full-time non-clinical post, but requests for part-time or job share arrangements will be considered. The post is funded for 36 months.

About PHRI

The Population Health Research Institute (PHRI) addresses a wide range of population health conditions (mental illness, cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, infectious diseases, eye disease, respiratory and allergic diseases,) and their determinants across the life course. There is expertise in the effects of environmental exposures on health and wellbeing; the safety of medicines in pregnancy; the rehabilitation of long-term conditions including COVID; complex behavioural interventions for smoking cessation and physical activity; preventive medicine, ethnic and social health inequalities, and the co-creation of research. Our research informs policy and practice.

In the last Research Excellence Framework (REF 2021), within Unit of Assessment 2 (Public Health, Health Services and Primary Care), 91% of outputs from PHRI were ranked as being internationally excellent or world leading. Our



science influences policy worldwide and in the last Research Excellence Framework, St. George's, University of London was ranked 8th for impact in REF 2021.

Academic and research staff undertake quantitative and qualitative research in epidemiology, medical statistics, public health, primary care, health services research and evaluation, psychology, behavioural medicine, paediatrics, environmental health, and sociology. PHRI comprises ~60 staff, led by Professor Charlotte Clark, PHRI Institute Director. Research activities are organised within three Sections:

- Environmental and Social Epidemiology, led by Professor John Gulliver
- Chronic Disease Epidemiology, led by Professor Chris Owen
- Prevention, Health Care and Rehabilitation, led by Dr Michael Perkin

This project sits within the Environmental and Social Epidemiology Section. Currently funded high-profile research activities within the Section include:

- The Department for Transport ANNE study examining associations between aircraft noise and sleep disturbance and annoyance;
- The Horizon 2020 Equal-Life project examining the physical, social and biological exposome and children's mental health and cognition;
- A feasibility study for Heathrow Airport Limited examining the effectiveness of an aircraft noise insulation scheme on residents' mental health and quality of life;
- The MRC funded UK Longitudinal Linkage Collaboration deriving a range of environmental exposures for UK cohort studies;
- The ESRC funded EUROCARE project examining associations between unpaid caregiving and health, social relationships and employment and whether these vary across the UK, Germany, Spain and Norway;
- A Nuffield Foundation funded project investigating the longer-term health, education, employment and social participation outcomes of UK young carers.



Person Specification

Criteria	Description	Essential/ Desirable	How it is to be tested
Qualifications	PhD/doctorate in epidemiology, biostatistics, psychology or a closely related quantitative discipline.	E	AF
Experience	Experience of primary quantitative data collection (e.g., conducting surveys or similar in school, general population, or clinical settings).	E	AF, INT, SS1
	Experience of conducting advanced longitudinal statistical methods (such as longitudinal regression methods, analysis of trajectories of exposures and outcomes; multi-level modelling; or similar).	E	SS2
	Experience of leading relevant peer-reviewed publications in high-quality academic journals.	E	INT
	Experience in management and governance of data collection including ethics applications and use of REDCap	D	INT,
	Experience of engaging with non-academic stakeholders such as policymakers, the public, third sector organisations, or people with lived experience.	D	AF, INT
Knowledge/ Skills	Knowledge of observational epidemiology research designs and statistical methods	E	AF, INT,
	Proficient user of statistical software e.g. Stata, R.	E	AF, INT,
	Skilled in the use of large longitudinal datasets (e.g. National Pupil Database) and/or longitudinal administrative data sources	D	AF, INT,
	Experience of presenting results to academic and non-academic audiences (e.g., at national or international	E	AF, INT,

	conferences) and/or engaging with the public on science		
	Skilled in using secure research settings for sensitive data (e.g. the ONS Secure Research Setting).	D	AF, INT,
	Excellent organisational skills and ability to work on several tasks at the same time.	E	AF, INT
	Enthusiasm for population-based research in environmental effects on health and wellbeing.	E	INT, SS3
Personal Attributes	Excellent communication (written and verbal) and interpersonal skills.	E	AF, INT
	Ability to work as part of a team and liaise with a range of project team members.	E	INT
	Committed to embedding practices which embrace diversity and promote equality of opportunity	E	INT, SS4
	Committed to Continuing Professional Development (CPD)	E	INT

Key:

PQ=Prerequisite Qualification, AF=Application Form, CV=Curriculum Vitae, SS=Selection/Supporting Statements, ST=Selection Test/Presentation, INT=Interview

Note: Elements marked SS (Supporting Statements) in the Person Specification will be highlighted in Step 6 (Supporting Statements) on the online application form. Applicants' answers to Step 6 are an essential part of the selection process. Applicants should write individual supporting statements to demonstrate how their qualifications, experience, skills and training fit each of the elements highlighted in this section.

Applicants should address other elements of the Person Specification in Step 7 (Additional Information). Shortlisting will be based on applicants' responses to Step 6 **and** Step 7. Therefore, applicants should complete both sections as fully as possible on the online application form.

Updated July 2024



About St George's, University of London

St George's, University of London is the UK's only University dedicated to medical, biomedical and allied health education, training and research. Sharing a clinical environment with a major London teaching hospital in southwest London, our innovative approach to education results in well-rounded and highly skilled clinicians, scientists, and health and social care professionals.

An independent member of the University of London, we have a long and illustrious history of training healthcare professionals, dating back more than 270 years. We are well known for our innovative approach to medical education, being the first UK institution to launch a Graduate Entry Medicine Programme, a four-year fast-track medical degree course open to graduates in any discipline. St George's is the number one university in the UK for Graduate Prospects (on track), according to the Complete University Guide 2024 and second for Graduate Prospects in the 2024 Times UK University Rankings.

Our internationally recognised research delivers cutting-edge scientific discovery through four specialist Research Institutes, directly helping patients through our close links to the clinical frontline and London's diverse community. We were ranked joint 8th in the UK by the Times Higher Education in their Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021 Impact Scores. 36% of St George's research was assessed as 'world-leading' and 100% of our impact cases were judged to be either 'world-leading' or 'internationally excellent.' Our Institutes focus on biomedical and scientific discovery, advancing the prevention and treatment of disease in the fields of population health, neuroscience, heart disease and infection - four of the greatest challenges to global health in the 21st century. Our values keep St George's, University of London striving to deliver its mission and demonstrate how we aspire to CARE for ourselves and others:

- Collaboration - We work as a community and engage external partners to deliver our mission.
- Ambition - We strive to achieve the best for ourselves and others, responding dynamically to new challenges.
- Respect - We are open-minded, listening to others and valuing different perspectives.
- Equity - We are inclusive, tackling inequity in all its forms.

The diversity of the people within our community at St George's, University of London is one of our strengths. The university benefits hugely from the range of perspectives that come from the different backgrounds, opinions and beliefs of our staff and students and, in recognising that, we want to put our approach to diversity and inclusion firmly at our core.

More information about St George's, University of London can be found at www.sgul.ac.uk.

City, University of London and St George's, University of London have signed an agreement to merge, creating a powerful multi-faculty, multi-site, institution from 1 August 2024. The combined university will become one of the largest suppliers of the health workforce in the capital, as well as one of the largest higher education destinations for London students. If you have any questions, you can email hrhelp@sgul.ac.uk with enquiries.



St George's, University of London currently offers a range of employee benefits:

Salary: **£40,555** pa, including London Allowance (pro-rated for part-time staff). The salary range for **SGUL 6** is **£40,555 – £47,719** including London Allowance, but appointment is usually made at the minimum point.

Hours: 35 hours per week which can be done flexibly in various ways or part time/job share can also be considered. Staff are expected to work the hours necessary to meet the requirements of the role and this will be dependent on the service area.

Annual leave: 32 days per annum. Plus eight UK public holidays and three days when St George's, University of London is closed (usually between Christmas and New Year). Part time staff receive a pro rata entitlement.

Pension: Membership of competitive pension schemes with generous employer contribution and a range of extra benefits.

[Superannuation Arrangements of the University of London \(SAUL\)](#)

[Universities Superannuation Scheme \(USS\)](#)

[National Health Services Pension Scheme \(NHSPS\) \(existing members only\)](#)

Flexible working Flexible working, including part-time or reduced hours of work, opportunities to work from home for many posts, compressed hours and local flexibility in agreeing start and finish times of work.

Travel St George's, University of London offers an interest free season ticket loan and participates in the [Cycle to Work Scheme](#).

Gift Aid If you would like to make a tax-free donation to a charity of your choice, this can be arranged through our Payroll.

Sports and Leisure Facilities Rob Lowe Sports Centre, situated on the St George's Healthcare NHS Trust site offers exercise facilities that can be utilised by St George's, University of London staff.

Within walking distance from the University is Tooting Leisure Centre. Facilities include a swimming pool, gym and various exercise classes. The Centre offers SGUL staff an all-inclusive corporate membership. For more information please contact [Tooting Leisure Centre](#).

Shops and facilities There are a number of shops and facilities situated on site including ATMs, student bar and shop, Pret a Manger, M&S Simply Food store, library and multi-faith room.



Informal enquiries

Informal enquiries may be made via email to: chclark@sgul.ac.uk

Making an application

All applicants are encouraged to apply on line at <http://jobs.sgul.ac.uk> as our system is user friendly and the online application form is simple to complete. Please note that CVs only will not be accepted.

For any accessibility issues please contact hrhelp@sgul.ac.uk

Closing date: 05 August 2024

Interview date tbc. As shortlisted candidates will be notified by email, it is imperative that you provide an email address that is accessed frequently.

Please quote reference: 433-24

We are delighted that you are interested in working at St George's, University of London. You will be notified of the outcome of your application by email. We aim to respond to all candidates within 5 weeks of the closing date of the vacancy.

