



St George's School of Health and Medical Sciences

City St George's, University of London

Population Health Research Institute

Research Fellow

Ref: 433-24-R

JOB DESCRIPTION

Post Title	Research Fellow
Grade	SGUL 6
Contract type	Fixed term – 36 months
Responsible to	Institute Director - Population Health Research Institute
Accountable to	Charlotte Clark, Professor of Environmental Epidemiology, Section of Environment and Social Epidemiology
Responsible for	n/a
Liases with	Research Institute staff, study collaborators

Overall purpose of job

This is an exciting opportunity to join a vibrant and growing multidisciplinary team researching the effects of noise pollution on health and wellbeing.

Children who go to noisy schools near airports have poorer health and reading skills than children who go to quieter schools. This has led to pressure on airports to reduce noise in schools, which can be done by giving schools better windows, as well as ensuring noise can't come into the classroom through the roof. Since 2008, London Heathrow Airport have been undertaking work to reduce noise, and also improve air quality in classrooms in West London schools. We want to find out whether these changes mean that children are no longer experiencing poorer health and have better reading skills.



The postholder will work on a study evaluating the impact of school-based interventions for aircraft noise on children's health and learning around London Heathrow airport. The project comprises three studies:

- the first will be a quantitative before and after study assessing the interventions using key stage educational data reported by schools;
- the second will be a qualitative study exploring users experiences of the intervention; and
- the third will be a feasibility study developing the methodology for a quantitative before and after study in primary schools collecting data on children's cognition and health, and collecting environmental data on noise and internal/external air quality in the school.

The postholder will primarily be expected to undertake activities in relation to the quantitative studies, contributing to a range of research activities including designing study materials and protocols, data collection in primary schools (e.g. cognitive assessments, surveys), statistical analysis, and writing research reports and presentations. The postholder will manage day-to-day running of parts of the project and will therefore, need to be able to work autonomously.

The project is led by Professor Charlotte Clark, City St George's, University of London, and involves collaborations with the University of Glasgow and Anderson Acoustics.

1. Main Duties and Responsibilities

- Participating in the planning and management of the research project
- Overseeing the day-to-day operation of aspects of project delivery
- Contributing to the design and preparation of surveys, cognitive tests, and other materials for use with primary school children
- Assisting with research governance activities, for example, ethics committee applications, funding progress reports, study protocols, steering group meetings
- Liaising and overseeing research activities and data collection in primary schools in West London
- Undertaking statistical analysis, under supervision
- Contributing to the writing and presentation of research outputs

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 postholder from time to time. City 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 School of Health & Medical Sciences, University of London, is committed to the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) principles.

2. Special Factors

The post will be based in Tooting, London. The successful applicant will be required to be onsite to carry out their duties and to travel to West London for data collection activities.



Person Specification

Criteria	Description	Essential/ Desirable	How it is to be tested
Qualifications	<i>Masters-level Degree in Psychology, Sociology, or a similar social science or public health related discipline</i>	E	PQ/AF
	<i>PhD/Doctorate in Psychology, Sociology, or a similar social science or public health related discipline</i>	D	AF/CV
Experience	<i>Experience of collecting data using surveys, questionnaires, or similar methods</i>	E	SS1 , INT, CV
	<i>Experience of undertaking statistical analysis and interpreting results</i>	E	SS2 , INT
	<i>Experience of actively participating in a Team</i>	E	SS3 , INT
	<i>Experience of participant recruitment</i>	D	INT, CV
	<i>Experience of data management (e.g., storage, organising, quality control, documentation, processing personal and confidential data).</i>	D	INT, CV
	<i>Experience of contributing to data governance, e.g. ethics application</i>	D	INT, CV
	<i>Experience of contributing to study protocols and survey materials</i>	D	INT, CV
	<i>Experience of using RedCap for data management</i>	D	INT, CV
Knowledge/ Skills	<i>Excellent written and verbal communication skills, including presentation and report writing skills</i>	E	SS4 , INT
	<i>Excellent organisation, prioritisation, and time management skills</i>	E	SS5 , AF



	Skilled in the use of large longitudinal datasets (e.g. National Pupil Database)	D	INT, CV
Personal Attributes	<i>Flexible approach to working</i>	E	INT
	<i>Attention to detail</i>	E	INT
	<i>Enthusiastic</i>	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.



3. Organisation chart

The successful candidate will join the [Section for Environmental and Social Epidemiology](#) in the [Population Health Research Institute](#). This is an internationally leading, and rapidly growing, population health and environmental science team, with a reputation for innovating and undertaking policy relevant research, applying social, health and environmental science to the problem of noise effects on health and communities. The team is currently made up of 15 members, working across diverse projects, providing ample opportunities for collaboration and learning. The team includes psychologists, geographers, environmental modellers, public health specialists, epidemiologists, and statisticians.

Current research activities within the Section include:

- The £1.7M Department for Transport funded study examining associations between aircraft noise and biologically assessed sleep disturbance (ANNE study);
- A before and after study examining the effect of a residential noise insulation scheme on health and quality of life for Heathrow Airport;
- The Equal-Life European H2020 study, examining the effect of environmental, social, and biological exposures on children's health and wellbeing;
- The MRC-funded Longitudinal Linkage Collaboration, undertaking environmental modelling for UK cohort datasets;
- The Nuffield Foundation YoungCare project, examining the long-term health, education, employment and social participation outcomes of UK young carers.

4. Date

12 August 2024



About us

St George's School of Health and Medical Sciences is 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.

St George's has 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. Now part of City St George's, University of London, St George's was 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. St George's was 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 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 is one of our strengths. We benefit 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 School of Health and Medical Sciences can be found at www.sgul.ac.uk.

City, University of London and St George's, University of London completed a merger on 1 August 2024, creating a powerful multi-faculty, multi-site, institution. 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 School of Health and Medical Sciences currently offers a range of employee benefits:

Salary: £41,732 pa, (pro-rated for part-time staff). The salary range for **Grade 6** is £41,732 – £48,350 and 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: 30 days per annum. Plus eight UK public holidays and four days when City 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 \(SAUL\)](#)

[London Pension Fund Authority \(LPFA\)](#)

[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 City 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 City St George's, University of London staff.

Within walking distance from St George's is Tooting Leisure Centre. Facilities include a swimming pool, gym and various exercise classes. The Centre offers 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: **09 September 2024**

Interview date will be on 26 September 2024. 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-R**

We are delighted that you are interested in working at St George's School of Health and Medical Sciences. 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.

