



RESEARCH ASSOCIATE IN LIFECOURSE EPIDEMIOLOGY

JOB DESCRIPTION

INTRODUCTION

Applications are invited for the post of Research Associate in the ESRC International Centre for Lifecourse Studies in Society and Health (ICLS) within the Research Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at University College London.

The post holder will be a member of the Research Department of Epidemiology and Public Health (Head, Professor Richard Watt) in the Institute of Epidemiology and Health Care (Head, Professor Andrew Steptoe), part of the Faculty of Population Health Sciences in the School of Life and Medical Sciences. The appointee will be based at the University College London campus located in Bloomsbury.

The post offers an exciting opportunity for an individual with a PhD in epidemiology or a numerate social science discipline. The main focus of the post will be to contribute to the work of the project *A picture of youth - inequalities in health from childhood to early adulthood*. It is known that early child health and development has long lasting influences on health and social outcomes throughout the lifecourse. A substantial body of work has documented extant socioeconomic inequalities in markers of early child development, but the picture in late childhood and early adolescence is far from clear. This project will investigate how influences combine to shape health and development throughout childhood into the early adult years. The post will support the work of the International Centre for Lifecourse Studies in Society and Health (ICLS) and is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.1 The Research Department of Epidemiology and Public Health

The Research Department of Epidemiology and Public Health is chaired by Professor Richard Watt and houses roughly 180 staff divided into eleven research groups: namely; International Centre for Lifecourse Studies; Whitehall II Study; the Cancer Research UK Health Behaviour Research Centre; the Leonard Cheshire Disability and Inclusive Development Centre; Dental Public Health; Psychobiology; Central and Eastern Europe; Health and Social Surveys; Genetic Epidemiology; Clinical Epidemiology; Institute of Health Equity.

For an outline of current research projects in the Department please visit our website at <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/epidemiology/>. The Department contributes to undergraduate and graduate teaching, and runs several seminar series, which all members of staff are encouraged to attend. For an institutional profile see *Annexe A* below.

1.2. Institute of Epidemiology and Health Care

The Institute of Epidemiology and Health Care (formerly Division of Population Health) is part of the Faculty of Population Health Sciences within the UCL School of Life and Medical Sciences (incorporating UCL Medical School)

The Institute comprises five Research Departments, and two associated MRC Units, as follows:

CHIME	http://www.chime.ucl.ac.uk
Applied Health Research	http://www.ucl.ac.uk/ahr/
Epidemiology and Public Health	http://www.ucl.ac.uk/epidemiology/
Infection and Population Health	http://www.ucl.ac.uk/iph/
Primary Care and Population Health	http://www.ucl.ac.uk/pcph/
MRC Clinical Trials Unit	http://www.ctu.mrc.ac.uk/
MRC Unit for Lifelong Health and Ageing	http://www.nshd.mrc.ac.uk.

The Institute has an internationally competitive research programme focused on:

- Understanding the determinants of health and disease across the life-course in populations and in patients in clinical settings, including the investigation of genetic, biological, behavioural, psychosocial and cultural processes;
- Evaluating strategies for the prevention and treatment of physical and mental ill-health;
- Monitoring and surveillance of health and health care nationally and internationally;
- Carrying out innovative work on behaviour change and on the practice of primary care;
- Developing and implementing new technologies in teaching and research in population health;
- Teaching and capacity building in population health research and practice.
- Applied health and health policy research

The staff of the Institute is multidisciplinary, with expertise across the in clinical, public health, and primary care medicine, epidemiology, medical statistics, health psychology, sociology, health economics, public policy, information technology, genetics, physiology, and improvement science. As an Institute we have strong national and international interdisciplinary collaborations with a large portfolio of international research linked to the UCL Global Health Initiative.

The Institute offers world-class education and training in a wide range of subjects including contributions to all years of the MBBS curriculum and an extensive portfolio of post graduate taught and research programmes.

The Institute Director is Professor Andrew Steptoe

Further information on IEHC can be found at: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/iehc/>

2. DUTIES OF THE POST

Accountable to: Professor Yvonne Kelly

Responsible for: The post holder will contribute to the ICLS scientific programme

Key working relationships: Professor Yvonne Kelly, Professor Amanda Sacker

Main purpose of post:

- *Research:* contribute to the project: *A picture of youth - inequalities in health from childhood to early adulthood*, and to work with Professor Yvonne Kelly and other researchers on other projects in the ICLS scientific programme.
- *Capacity Building:* Develop your own research and publication portfolio. Contribute to supervision of ICLS PhD students.
- *Teaching:* You will be involved in the delivery of a teaching programme, mainly to ICLS PhD students via small group training sessions and individual tuition. Delivering occasional lectures to MSc and Diploma Health and Society: Social Epidemiology, as required.

Main duties and responsibilities:

The post holder will be required to:

- Carry out secondary analysis of large data sets, including the Millennium Cohort Study, Understanding Society, the 1958 and 1970 British Birth Cohorts.
- Write first-authored peer-reviewed journal articles.
- Contribute to the training of ICLS PhD students.

Other duties may include:

- Collaborating on other projects within ICLS scientific programme.
- Active participation in the academic life of the International Centre for Lifecourse Studies in Society and Health.

Aptitude

• Ability to work as part of a multidisciplinary team	E	A / I
• The highest ethical and professional standards in research and education	E	A / I
• Commitment to academic research	E	A / I
• Highly self motivated and hard working	E	A / I
• Commitment to continuous professional development	E	A / I

In addition to the person specification criteria, the successful candidate will need to meet UCL's expectations of:

- ❖ Academic excellence, as outlined in 'Excellence and the UCL community: a shared endeavour' (<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/excellence/>)

A hard copy of this document is available on request.

These will inform the candidate's induction, probation, and appraisal, in discussion with the Head of Department.

4. GENERAL INFORMATION

Appointment

The salary for this post is Grade 7 points 29 (£29,541) to point 31 (£31,331) excluding London Allowance of £2,834. Progression through the salary scale is incremental. Cost of living pay awards are negotiated nationally and are normally effective from 1st August each year.

The appointment is available from 01/06/13 and is funded for 2 years in the first instance.

Terms and Conditions and Staff Benefits

Please follow the links in the advertisement for information on UCL Terms and Conditions for Research and Support Staff and Employee Benefits.

Diversity in the Workplace

UCL recognises that in our society, individuals and groups are discriminated against both directly and indirectly on the grounds of: age, colour, disability, ethnic origin, gender, HIV status, marital, social or economic status, nationality, race, religious beliefs, responsibility for dependants, sexual orientation, trades union membership or unrelated criminal convictions.

To counteract discrimination, UCL is committed to actively opposing all forms of discrimination, raising awareness and tackling the causes and consequences. It is committed to providing a learning and working environment in which the rights and dignity of all its members are respected and which is free from discrimination, prejudice, intimidation and all forms of harassment including bullying; to making staff and students feel valued, motivated and enabled to do their best work and to creating a safe, welcoming working environment accessible to all.

The need to continuously update and improve our knowledge and skills in regard to assuring diversity means that all our courses include and address relevant aspects of the diversity agenda as required.

The online training consists of a package called Diversity in the Workplace and provides essential, up to date information about Diversity in UCL. It takes about an hour to complete. Completion is a requirement for all new starters within 6 weeks of joining UCL; details will be provided with their contract of employment.

Research Governance

The post holder will be expected to be familiar with the requirements of the Department of Health (DoH) and UCL research governance frameworks and to comply with all UCLH NHS Trust's policies pertaining to research governance. This will include ensuring that all clinical research activities of the post holder are approved by the Trust and an appropriate ethics committee before commencement. This will also include meeting all the Trust research audit, monitoring and training requirements.

The UCL research governance framework can be found on the UCL website at: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/joint-rd-unit/>

The DoH Research Governance Framework for health and social care can be found at: http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/Researchanddevelopment/AtoZ/Researchgovernance/DH_4002112

5. HOW TO APPLY

Enquiries / Visits

Informal enquiries should be made to: Professor Yvonne Kelly (y.kelly@ucl.ac.uk)

Shortlisted candidates are welcome to visit the department and if they wish to do so should please contact Professor Yvonne Kelly to arrange this once they have been invited to attend for interview.

Applications

Applications should be completed on line <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/hr/jobs/>, however if you are having difficulty accessing the on-line recruitment system please contact Ms Floriana Bortolotti f.bortolotti@ucl.ac.uk for advice.



UCL School of Life and Medical Sciences (SLMS) brings together four UCL Faculties to create one of the largest and most prestigious aggregations of academics in biomedical, life and population health sciences. The School has a global reputation for teaching informed by cutting-edge research. A full profile of the School can be found at: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/slms/about-us>.

In 2011, SLMS was restructured into four Faculties of (i) Brain Sciences (ii) Life Sciences (iii) Medical Sciences and (iv) Population Health Sciences. These structural changes have further enhanced the exceptionally strong base of research and teaching in biomedicine at UCL.

In addition to its Faculties, the School also coordinates nine Research Domains (<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/slms/domains>) which are informal networks that bring together researchers regardless of their host Faculty. Colleagues engage in as many of the domains as are relevant to their area of research activity, encouraging interdisciplinarity across our School and beyond.

SLMS Faculties

- i. **UCL Faculty of Brain Sciences** (<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/brain-sciences/>) undertakes world-leading research and teaching in neurology and neural pathways, neuroscience, language, cognition, psychology and psychiatry. It takes an integrative approach to the study of mind and brain by focusing on the determinants of human perception, cognition, emotion and behaviour. We are recognised as world leaders in our fields and our work attracts staff and students from around the globe. UCL neuroscience has the highest level of ISI citations in Europe, and is ranked second worldwide (behind Harvard), in the field of neuroscience and behavior. The Faculty and its component parts create an outstanding and vibrant environment for study and research.

The Faculty of Brain Sciences comprises:

- **UCL Institute of Neurology** (Queen Square, WC1)
<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/ion/>
- **UCL Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience** (WC1)
<http://www.icn.ucl.ac.uk/>
- **UCL Institute of Ophthalmology** (Bath Street, EC1)
<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/iao/>
- **UCL Ear Institute** (Gray's Inn Road, WC1)
<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/ear/>
- **UCL Division of Psychology & Language Sciences** (WC1)
<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/psychlangsci/>
- **UCL Mental Health Sciences Unit** (Riding House Street, WC1)
<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/mentalhealthsciences/>

- ii. **UCL Faculty of Life Sciences** (<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/lifesciences-faculty/homepage>) was founded in October 1990 and combines the strengths of UCL's basic biological and preclinical sciences. Some of the constituent research departments have long and distinguished histories that can be traced back to the early nineteenth century and the foundation of UCL. In January 2012 the School of Pharmacy (founded in 1842) merged with UCL to form a new division within the Faculty of Life Sciences, the UCL School of Pharmacy.

The Faculty has been associated with six Nobel Laureates. It presents an unrivalled environment for students and researchers in life science disciplines ranging from neuroscience to the biology of molecules, cells and organisms. Following the merger with the School of Pharmacy the Faculty has now extended the range of expertise and opportunities available to include drug discovery, formulation sciences and medicines use and health.

Located in the heart of the UCL's Bloomsbury campus, it provides outstanding opportunities for research-led and research-based undergraduate and postgraduate study. The Faculty is home to over 500 graduate students studying on some of the UK's most prestigious PhD programmes.

The Faculty of Life Sciences comprises:

- **UCL Division of Biosciences** (incorporating the research departments of Genetics, Evolution and Environment; Neuroscience, Physiology and Pharmacology; Structural and Molecular Biology; and Cell and Developmental Biology)
<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/biosciences/>
- **The UCL-MRC Laboratory of Molecular Cell Biology**
<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/LMCB/>
- **The Gatsby Computational Neuroscience Unit**
<http://www.gatsby.ucl.ac.uk/>
- **UCL School of Pharmacy**
<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/pharmacy>

iii. **UCL Faculty of Medical Sciences** (<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/medical-sciences/>) brings together UCL Medical School and seven of UCL's Divisions and Institutes, creating a powerhouse of medical science research and teaching.

Staff in the Faculty undertake world-leading research and teaching in areas that range from viral oncology to connective tissue disease, and oral health. The Faculty and its component parts create an outstanding and vibrant environment for study and research.

The Faculty of Medical Sciences comprises:

- **UCL Medical School**
<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/medicalschoo/>
- **UCL Cancer Institute**
<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/cancer/>
- **UCL Eastman Institute**
<http://www.eastman.ucl.ac.uk/>
- **UCL Division of Infection and Immunity**
<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/infection-immunity/>
- **UCL Division of Surgery and Interventional Science**
<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/surgicalscience/>
- **UCL Division of Medicine**
<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/medicine/>
- **Wolfson Institute for Biomedical Research**
<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/WIBR/>

iv. **UCL Faculty of Population Health Sciences** (<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/populationhealth-sciences/>) brings together expertise in Child Health, Women's and Reproductive Health, Population Health and Cardiovascular Science. Its aim is to deliver outstanding research and teaching for improved human health, and the unifying concept that informs its scholarship and educational activity is the life course.

The Faculty's research elucidates the biological, behavioural and psychosocial processes that operate across an individual's life, and across generations, that affect the development of disease in populations. This research informs undergraduate, postgraduate and vocational teaching.

The Faculty of Population Health Sciences comprises:

- **UCL Institute of Child Health**
<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/ich/homepage>
- **UCL Institute for Women's Health**
http://www.instituteforwomenshealth.ucl.ac.uk/ifwh_landing
- **UCL Institute of Cardiovascular Science**
<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/cardiovascular/>
- **UCL Institute of Epidemiology and Health Care**
<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/iehc/>

The Institutes represent each life-stage, from conception, birth, childhood, adolescence into adulthood, older age and death, and comprehensively address all these phases and periods, and the health variations associated with them at a population level.

The Faculty also undertakes studies that inform the development of services, interventions and policies that address health disparities that occur as a consequence of exposures throughout the life course.

The Francis Crick Institute

An exciting addition to the UCL environment is the new **Francis Crick Institute**, a partnership between UCL, the Medical Research Council (MRC), Cancer Research UK, the Wellcome Trust, King's College London and Imperial College London. Due to open in 2015, the new Institute will be a leading centre of biomedical research, with a focus on interdisciplinary approaches to the biology of human health and disease.

The state-of-the-art facility will occupy a site next to London's St Pancras station, a few minutes' walk from UCL's main Bloomsbury campus, UCL Hospital, Great Ormond Street Hospital and Queen's Square. The facility will house ~1,250 scientists, including existing staff from Cancer Research UK's London Research Institute and the MRC's National Institute for Medical Research.

UCL will be seconding staff to the Institute. Selection for secondment will be undertaken in partnership with the Director of the Francis Crick Institute and will be based on scientific excellence and fit with UCL's strategic aims, to maximise the Institute's potential for innovation and for translation of discoveries into patient benefit. It is also likely that UCL will host staff from the Francis Crick Institute in complementary areas of science, creating further opportunities for UCL staff to relate to this exciting development.

Read about The Francis Crick Institute at: <http://www.crick.ac.uk>.

SLMS Planning and Performance Unit, Research Support Centre and Finance



The School is supported in a strategic and project management capacity by small teams of staff within the **SLMS Planning and Performance Unit**, **SLMS Finance** and the **Research Support Centre**, who work across the School to promote an integrated, high quality and streamlined approach, which optimises sharing of best practise across the faculties and encourages interdisciplinarity.

- **The SLMS Planning and Performance Unit (P&PU)** provides strategic and project management capacity to support the academic activities of the School of Life and Medical Sciences. The Unit develops and oversees the framework for strategic planning within the four SLMS Faculties and develops bespoke and general key performance indicators to inform planning processes. It leads an annual planning cycle that addresses academic ambitions alongside financial opportunities and ensures strategic alignment across the Divisions/Institutes, Faculties, School and University.

The P&PU also develops School-wide policies in collaboration with UCL's corporate support services, reflecting the needs and ambitions of the School's four faculties. Policies relate to a range of areas including staffing, health and safety, environmental impact, equalities action planning and business continuity planning.

- **Academic Research Support centre:**
 - **Research Coordination team:** The Research Coordinators support and strategically coordinate internal research initiatives, particularly relating to the SLMS Research Domains (Neuroscience; Basic life sciences; Cancer; Cardiometabolic science; Infection, inflammation and immunology;

Frontier disciplines; Reproduction and development; Experimental medicine and Population health).

Research Coordinators bring together communities by facilitating events and forums and encouraging academic interaction across Divisions and Institutes, and develop mutually beneficial relationships with external funding agencies.

- **Platform Technologies** (<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/platforms/>): The Platform Technologies team helps to develop closer working and shared knowledge between UCL research groups who have similar equipment and expertise. They aid cutting edge basic and translational research projects by more effective organization and implementation of these key resources.
- **Translational Research Office (TRO)**: The Translational Research Office team helps to facilitate the translation of UCL's basic and clinical research into therapies, techniques and medicinal products with therapeutic value. The team undertakes cost, risk and design assessments to support UCL investigators establishing more effective and reliable clinical trials.
- **Clinical Research Support centre:**
 - **Joint Research Office** (<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/jro>): Covering UCL, UCLH and Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust, this office supports clinical investigators with the design, set up and approval of new clinical trials and other research projects.
 - **UCLH/UCL NIHR Biomedical Research Centre management office** (<http://www.uclh.nhs.uk/research/cbrc/Pages/Home.aspx>): Now in its fifth year the CBRC is the driver for experimental medicine.
 - The National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) Biomedical Research Centre at UCLH/UCL is one of the UK's leaders in world class experimental medicine and research. The BRC was recently awarded £100m to drive a cutting edge and internationally-acclaimed experimental medicine portfolio over the next 5 years.
 - A partnership between a leading NHS Trust, a leading university and the NIHR, we are one of just 5 BRCs leading experimental medicine across a wide range of disease areas.
 - We have an ambitious programme of research aimed at ensuring patients benefit as quickly and as safely as possible from new scientific breakthroughs. Our work focuses in particular on research into new therapies, including novel devices; first in man studies; developing improvements in diagnosis, treatment selection and evaluation of response; and repurposing of therapies.
 - The BRC has 4 programmes of work that reflect our particular strengths - **cancer, neuroscience, cardiometabolic and infection, immunity and inflammation**. We target our resources at funding staff engaged in experimental medicine, dedicated research facilities and capacity-building through education and specialist support.
 - Central to our work is the active development of partnerships with industry to ensure the full realisation of scientific opportunities. We are also very much part of the NIHR family and work in partnership with other BRCs, biomedical research units and clinical research facilities. From 2012/13 the UCLH/UCL BRC will partner closely with the new **UCLH/UCL NIHR Dementia Biomedical Research Unit**.
 - **UCLH/UCL Clinical Research Facility** (<http://www.uclh.nhs.uk/Research/CRF/Pages/Home.aspx>): This 20-bed facility in the Elizabeth Garret Anderson Wing of University College Hospital provides a high quality research environment and Good Clinical Practice trained research nurses and other staff, to ensure the safe conduct of clinical trials and other research.
 - **UCL Clinical Trials Unit**: This clinical trials unit provides leadership for clinical trials at UCL and supports actual delivery of trials and studies.
- **SLMS Finance** are responsible for supporting, guiding and managing the financial planning of the four SLMS Faculties, in collaboration with SLMS and Faculty leadership, to ensuring a consistent and integrated approach, and an aligned approach with the central UCL Finance and Business Affairs team.