

Job Description

PhD studentship (Economics)

PhD studentship in Health Economics, at University College London

Department: Institute for Global Health

Location: Centre for Global Health Economics, UCL Institute for Global Health, physically located at the Guilford Street site (30 Guilford St, London, WC1N 1EH)

Supervised by: Prof Jolene Skordis and Dr Neha Batura

Fees and stipend: Student fees will be paid at Home or International rate, with a stipend at £20k per annum

Full time : 36.5 hours per week

Duration: The post is available from 15 September 2021 through to 14 September 2025.

Context

University College London (UCL) is London's leading multidisciplinary university, with approximately 11,000 staff and 38,000 students from 150 countries. The university operates in a global context and is committed to excellence, innovation and the promotion of global understanding in all activities: research, teaching, learning, enterprise and community engagement. UCL is one of the top ten universities in the world according to the 2021 QS World University Rankings and is consistently ranked as one of the best universities in the UK for research strength.

Based within the Faculty of Population Health Sciences, [Institute for Global Health](#) (IGH) is the thriving research and teaching community at the heart of UCL's [Grand Challenge of Global Health](#). Drawing on the expertise of our staff, we take a unique cross-disciplinary approach to global health in both our research and teaching, responding to the fact that health problems – and their solutions – are influenced by the social environment as well as medical innovation. IGH offers a range of high quality teaching programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate level. Experienced staff have created cutting edge programmes in global health and international child health, uniting traditional public health concerns with economics, law, philosophy, geography, anthropology and other disciplines.

The Centre for Global Health Economics aims to provide world-leading expertise in Health, Behavioural, Public and Development Economics. The Centre's research expertise spans three main areas: (a) Economic evaluations within trials of interventions to improve public health, (b) Modelling to identify scalable and sustainable health service delivery mechanisms and efficient health spending, and (c) Experimental and behavioural studies to understand the barriers and levers to positive behaviour change. The Centre also offers training and capacity building in global health economics.

Main purpose of the studentship

- This four-year studentship offers candidates a unique opportunity to build both the research and teaching experience required for a future academic career, in a supportive environment. The awardee may pursue their own PhD question or a question developed in partnership with the supervisory team at UCL's Centre for Global Health Economics, the Department of Economics and the Department of Statistical Science. The awardee will have their UCL student fees paid at the Home or International rate and will receive a stipend of £20,000 per annum.
- The UCL Centre for Global Health Economics is a multi-faculty academic Centre. Based within the IGH, the Centre's Fellows contribute world leading expertise in Behavioural and Development Economics, Decision Science, Statistics and Mathematical and Epidemiological Modelling. Examples of current research span the economic evaluation of complex trials to improve maternal and child health, exploratory work to identify scalable and sustainable service delivery mechanisms for early child development, and macroeconomic modelling of efficient spending on HIV and tuberculosis. The Centre hosts UCL's MSc in Health Economics and Decision Science, where students develop specialised skills in Health Economics or Decision Science. The Centre also provides teaching resources for the MSc in Global Health and Development, and supports a number of doctoral students and post-doctoral research fellows. The Centre also runs a summer internship programme for undergraduate and postgraduate students interested in the Economics of Global Health and Development.
- The awardee will spend 180 hours per year on teaching activities and the rest of their working time on research studies. The teaching responsibility is recognized in the longer than average funding period. Within their teaching role, the awardee will provide teaching assistance on three modules within the MSc in Health Economics and Decision Science, personal tutoring to approximately 5-10 students per academic year and supervision to 5-10 masters projects.
- The academic year has 20 teaching weeks and the awardee is expected to work an average of 9 hours per teaching week. The number of hours per week varies according to the demands imposed by individual modules and by the structure of the course.
- This studentship is offered for four years. The successful applicant would receive supervision and mentoring from a supervisory team within IGH, supplemented by support from UCL's strong doctoral training programme which offers a comprehensive range of academic and other skills training.
- The awardee's PhD research will be supervised by Professor Jolene Skordis and Dr Neha Batura, and applications for this studentship should include a project proposal in an area aligned with their research interests. Applicants are advised to read the guidance on developing a project proposal on our webpages (<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/global-health/study/researchdegrees>), to read about the research of Professor Skordis (<https://iris.ucl.ac.uk/iris/browse/profile?upi=JSKOR31>) and Dr Batura (<https://iris.ucl.ac.uk/iris/browse/profile?upi=NBATU68>), and to contact them in advance to discuss potential research ideas before developing their proposal and submitting their application..

Duties and responsibilities:

The awardee will report to their PhD supervisors regarding progress on their doctoral research. For teaching activities, the awardee will report to the Module Leads and the Course Director (Dr Neha Batura) who has overall responsibility for managing the MSc in Health Economics and Decision Science. The awardee will be expected to act on their own initiative and use their judgement in prioritising tasks whilst referring complex problems or issues of policy where appropriate.

The awardee will have two main duties:

- (1) The successful completion of a PhD; and
- (2) 180 hours per annum of teaching responsibilities over the course of the studentship. The precise distribution of hours across these tasks will be by agreement with the PhD supervisory team and the Course Director.

Specifically, these duties are expected to entail:

- The conduct of all research activities associated with a period of doctoral research study at a world leading university;

- Presenting research in progress at conferences and seminars;
- Publishing research outputs as appropriate;
- Class teaching;
- Marking coursework submitted for tutorial classes using solutions provided by course lecturer;
- Maintaining records to monitor student progress, achievement and attendance;
- A weekly office hour for student enquiries during term time;
- Examination/assessment marking duties;
- Attendance in lectures for taught courses in order to familiarise yourself with content and student competencies;
- Holding individual meetings with personal tutees to provide pastoral support;
- Holding individual meeting with project tutees to provide academic support;
- Holding office hours when they are available for students. They are expected to be able to deal with students' questions about specific modules and problems related to research methods and the writing of a research report.
- Reading project drafts (for nominated tutees) to provide academic guidance;
- Regular meetings with the course lecturer to discuss arising issues and problems;
- Involvement in ad-hoc meetings organized by Lecturers or students;
- Keeping class registers where needed;
- Liaising with the Course Directors and Module Leads about students who have prolonged absences or do not submit coursework;
- Liaising with the Course Directors and Module Leads about mark spreadsheets and student feedback;
- To actively follow and promote UCL policies, including Equal Opportunities; and
- To uphold confidentiality in regards to students records and marks.

Person specification

Criteria	Essential or Desirable?
Qualifications, experience and knowledge	
Highly motivated to pursue doctoral studies in Economics at a world leading institution	Essential
Educated to postgraduate (Masters) degree level in Economics	Essential
Skills and abilities	
High level of literacy and numeracy	Essential
Excellent working knowledge of MS Office software and Stata	Essential
Ability to communicate clearly, both orally and in writing, with students, academic and support staff at all levels	Essential
Excellent organizational and time management skills	Essential
Ability to be flexible and to respond to changing priorities in a busy environment	Essential
Ability to work independently for short periods and as part of a team, recognising when advice / input needs to be sought	Essential
Excellent people skills and the ability to build good relationships with colleagues and external partners	Essential
A high level of accuracy and a keen attention to detail	Essential
Desirable Criteria	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Published research output • Experience working with complex datasets • Experience working within research groups or in field sites • Experience working with quantitative data from low and middle income country settings • Previous experience of teaching or other forms of public presentation • Knowledge of specialized Economics fields • Experience in providing pastoral care and support to students • Knowledge and experience of Moodle (virtual learning environment) • Knowledge of R or Matlab 	Desirable

Terms and conditions

The awardee works 180 hours per year on teaching. In return, their student fees will be paid at Home or International rate and they will receive a stipend at £20k per annum. The duration of the studentship is four years.

UCL Institute for Global Health (IGH)

More information about the UCL Institute for Global Health

The Institute, based in the Faculty of Population Health Sciences and physically located on three UCL sites (Guilford Street, Mortimer Market Centre and the Royal Free Hospital), is at the heart of UCL's Grand Challenge of Global Health. IGH's vision is for a world where international policy on global health is informed by world class research. Directly employing 160 research and teaching staff and 8 support staff, IGH extends its impact across UCL and with our international partners through trans-disciplinary research. IGH generates an annual income in excess of £11M million and reaches 280 students each year with global health modules and undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. Our postgraduate programme includes: MSc Global Health, MSc Health Economics and a PhD programme. A further 350 UCL medical students are taught by IGH staff as part of their fourth year MBBS programme.

IGH aims to support the development of robust solutions to aspects of the world's major global health challenges through scholarly outputs, education, public engagement, translational research and ultimately by influencing public policy and professional practice. IGH's global connections offer numerous research and funding opportunities. Our research links in Europe, South East Asia, Africa, China and South America are particularly strong. Within the Institute there are active research partnerships and field sites in about 40 countries. More details are available from our website <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/igh>

The IGH Centres include:

1. Centre for Clinical Research in Infection and Sexual Health
2. Centre for Pragmatic Global Health Trials
3. Centre for Clinical Research, Epidemiology, Modelling and Evaluation (CREME)
4. Centre for Global Health Economics
5. Centre for Population Research in Sexual Health and HIV
6. Centre for Molecular Epidemiology and Translational Research
7. Centre for the Health of Women, Children and Adolescents
8. Centre for Global Non-Communicable Diseases
9. Centre for Gender and Global Health
10. Centre for Climate Change, Migration, Conflict, and Health

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.

We particularly welcome applications from black and minority ethnic candidates as they are under-represented within UCL at this level.

Apply

Enquiries / Visits

Informal enquiries should be made to Dr Neha Batura (n.batura@ucl.ac.uk).

How to apply:

Applicants should send the following to **Ms Lydia Clinton** (l.clinton@ucl.ac.uk)

- CV
- Covering letter demonstrating how the essential and/ or desirable criteria are met (no more than 2 pages)
- Research proposal (3-4 pages) following guidance available at: https://www.ucl.ac.uk/drupal/site_global-health/sites/global-health/files/guidance_for_writing_a_project_proposal_0.pdf
- Names and contact details (address, email) of two academic referees

The deadline for applications is: 5 pm, 21 June 2021

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for interviews during the week of: 12 July 2021

The selected candidate will be made a provisional fellowship offer, subject to a successful application to UCL for a PhD place