

Division	Institute for Global Health
Post	PhD Studentship in Infectious Disease Epidemiology

DESCRIPTION

1. Purpose of the Job

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 will receive a stipend of £20k per annum and have their UCL student fees paid at the Home/EU rate. Non-EU applicants are expected to be able to fund the difference between Home and Overseas fee rates (full-time rate, for further information see Terms and Conditions section).

The UCL Institute for Global Health (IGH) is an interdisciplinary collaboration of leading academics, working on health and development in a global context, with a strong focus on infection. 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 is made up of ten centres; the student will be based in the UCL Centre for Molecular Epidemiology and Translational Research or the UCL Centre for Population Research in Sexual Health and HIV. IGH is home to UCL's new MSc in Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology, launching in September 2019. This MSc takes an interdisciplinary approach to infectious disease epidemiology, layering basic and clinical science, bioinformatics and molecular epidemiology on top of essential statistical, epidemiological and critical appraisal skills.

The awardee's PhD research will be supervised by Dr Nigel Field or Dr Maryam Shahmanesh, and applications for this studentship should include a project proposal in an area aligned with their research interests. These interests include but are not limited to infectious disease molecular epidemiology, sexual health and STIs, HIV prevention and sexual health among adolescents and young people in southern Africa. Applicants are advised to read the guidance on developing a project proposal on our webpages (<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/global-health/study/research-degrees>), to read about the research of Dr Field (<https://iris.ucl.ac.uk/research/personal?upi=NMFIE70>) and Dr Shahmanesh (<https://iris.ucl.ac.uk/iris/browse/profile?upi=MSHAH03>), and to contact them in advance to discuss potential research ideas before developing their proposal and submitting their application.

The awardee will be expected to spend 180 hours per year on teaching and the rest of their time on research studies. The extra teaching responsibility is recognised in the longer than average funding period. Within their teaching role, the awardee will provide teaching assistance on three modules within the MSc in Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology, personal tutoring to a maximum of 3 students per academic year, and supervision to a maximum of 3 masters projects.

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.

2. Responsibility

The awardee reports to their PhD supervisors regarding progress on their doctoral research. For teaching activities, the awardee will report to the Module Leads and the Course Directors (Dr Nigel Field, Dr Maryam Shahmanesh) who have overall responsibility for managing the MSc in Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology. 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.

3. Principal Duties

The awardee will have two main duties:

- The successful completion of a PhD
- 180 hours per annum of teaching responsibilities over the course of the studentship. The hours allocated to the teaching role will be spent on class teaching, lecture preparation, meeting with lecturers, office hours during term time for individual meetings with students, coursework assessment, attendance reporting, personal supervising, project supervising and examination marking.

The precise distribution of hours across these tasks will be by agreement with the PhD supervisory team and the Course Directors.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

- The conduct of all research activities associated with a period of doctoral research study at a world leading university;
- Presenting research in progress at external conferences and seminars;
- Publishing research outputs as appropriate in International peer-reviewed journals;
- Class teaching for groups of approximately 10 - 15 students, although groups may be larger for core modules;
- 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 dissertation project tutees to provide academic support;
- 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;
- To actively follow and promote UCL policies, including Equal Opportunities;

- To uphold confidentiality in regards to students records and marks.

3.3 Contact with students:

The awardee must hold 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.

3.4 Administrative duties:

- 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;

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Essential

- Highly motivated to pursue doctoral studies in Infectious Diseases Epidemiology at a world leading institution
- Educated to postgraduate (Masters) degree level in Epidemiology, Statistics, Public Health or a related subject
- High level of literacy and numeracy
- Excellent working knowledge of MS Office software and Stata
- Ability to communicate clearly, both orally and in writing, with students, academic and support staff at all levels
- Excellent organisational and time management skills
- Ability to be flexible and to respond to changing priorities in a busy environment
- Ability to work independently for short periods and as part of a team, recognising when advice / input needs to be sought
- Excellent people skills and the ability to build good relationships with colleagues and external partners
- A high level of accuracy and a keen attention to detail

Desirable

- 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
- Experience in providing pastoral care and support to students
- Knowledge and experience of Moodle (virtual learning environment)
- Knowledge of other statistical software e.g. R

TRAINING

The awardee will be expected to undertake all mandatory training required as part of their research and teaching roles. This includes a **mandatory**, introductory, three hour **Gateway workshop**, which has been designed by Senior/Principal Teaching fellows in CALT in collaboration with Faculties. Further details and dates of courses are available in the following link: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/arena/one>

Additionally, the awardee is required to attend introductory sessions run by the department. Additional training may be required and will be provided in-house throughout the year.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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

Further information on eligibility for Home/EU fees can be found at:

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/students/fees-and-funding/pay-your-fees/fee-schedules/student-fee-status>

Further information on Overseas fees rates can be found at:

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/students/fee-schedules-2019-2020-postgraduate-research>

Further information for students about Brexit can be found at:

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/brexit/support-ucl-community/faqs-students>

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.

4. HOW TO APPLY

Enquiries / Visits

Informal enquiries should be made to Dr. Nigel Field (nigel.field@ucl.ac.uk), Dr. Maryam Shahmanesh (m.shahmanesh@ucl.ac.uk) or Dr. Heather Bailey (heather.bailey@ucl.ac.uk)

Applications

Applicants should send the following to Dr Heather Bailey (heather.bailey@ucl.ac.uk)

- CV
- covering letter
- research proposal of 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

The research proposal should be aligned with research interests of Dr Field or Dr Shahmanesh and discussed with them before submission.

- names and contact details (address, email) of two academic referees

The deadline for applications is **Wednesday 21st August.**