



## Job Description

### PhD studentship (Statistics)

PhD studentship in Statistics and Health Economics, at University College London

**Department:** Institute for Global Health

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

**Reports to:** Dr Jolene Skordis and Prof Gianluca Baio

**Grade:** N/A

**Salary:** Student fees will be paid at Home/EU 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 2019 through to 14 September 2023.

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### Context

University College London (UCL) is London's leading multidisciplinary university, with approximately 11,000 staff and 38,000 students from 150 different 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 the top rated university for research strength in the Research Excellence Framework (REF), published in December 2014.

Based within the Faculty of Population Health Sciences, IGH is the thriving research and teaching community at the heart of UCL's [Grand Challenge of Global Health](#). Drawing on the expertise of over 200 staff from across UCL's departments, 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. In addition to the learning opportunities available within IGH, students have access to a wide range of seminars and lectures throughout UCL.

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/igh>

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### Main 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 may pursue their own PhD question or a question developed in partnership with the supervisory team at UCL's Centre for Global

Health Economics and at the UCL's Department of Statistical Science. The awardee will have their UCL student fees paid at the Home/EU or International rate and will receive a stipend of £20k per annum.

- The UCL Centre for Global Health Economics is a multi-faculty academic Centre. Based within the Institute for Global Health, 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 new MSc in Health Economics and Decision Science, where students can develop specialised skills in Health Economics or Decision Science, applicable to high-income as well as low-and middle-income settings. 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 who are interested in the economics of global health and development.
- The Department of Statistical Science at UCL is the longest established university statistics department in the world. It was founded in 1911 by Karl Pearson and has played a pioneering role in the development of the subject. It is one of nine departments in the UCL Faculty of Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MAPS), and has close links with many other departments, both within the Faculty and outside it. All MAPS departments had at least 80% of their research activity classified as "world-leading" or "internationally excellent" in terms of originality, significance and rigour in the 2014 REF. In 2018 the department obtained overall satisfaction ratings of 84% for the National Student Survey and 86% for the Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey. The department holds a Bronze Athena SWAN award in recognition of our commitment to advance the representation of women in science, mathematics, engineering and technology. We strongly support UCL's UCL's Equalities and Diversity Strategy, and encourage applications to our vacancies from under-represented groups. Flexible working arrangements are available for those who need them, and practical support for research trips and conference attendance is offered to staff with caring responsibilities. We teach statistical science at all levels (undergraduate single/combined honours, service courses, MSc and PhD) and carry out research across a wide range of theoretical and applied areas.
- The awardee will spend two-thirds of their time on research studies and one-third on teaching activities. The extra teaching responsibility is recognized in the longer than average funding period. Within their teaching role, the awardee will provide teaching assistance on three - four 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. PhD supervision and mentoring would be offered to the successful applicant. If the successful applicant does not already hold an offer of a PhD place at UCL, the successful applicant would be supported in applying for a PhD place at UCL.

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### **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 Directors who have 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 using solutions provided by course lecturers;
- 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?
<b>Qualifications, experience and knowledge</b>	
Highly motivated to pursue doctoral studies in Statistics at a world leading institution	Essential
Educated to postgraduate (Masters) degree level in Statistics or Mathematics	Essential
<b>Skills and abilities</b>	
High level of literacy and numeracy	Essential
Knowledge of Bayesian statistics	Essential
Excellent working knowledge of main statistical software, including R 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
<b>Desirable Criteria</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Published research output</li> <li>• Experience working with complex datasets</li> <li>• Experience working within research groups or in field sites</li> <li>• Experience working with quantitative data from low and middle income country settings</li> <li>• Previous experience of teaching or other forms of public presentation</li> <li>• Knowledge of specialized Statistics fields</li> <li>• Experience in providing pastoral care and support to students</li> <li>• Knowledge and experience of Moodle (virtual learning environment)</li> <li>• Knowledge of Bayesian software, e.g. BUGS, JAGS or Stan</li> </ul>	Desirable

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## Terms and conditions

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

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## 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.

## 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 (Institute of Child Health, 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
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**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. Jolene Skordis-Worrall ([j.skordis-worrall@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:j.skordis-worrall@ucl.ac.uk)) or Dr Neha Batura ([n.batura@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:n.batura@ucl.ac.uk)).

## **Applications**

Applicants should send a CV, covering letter and the names and addresses of two academic referees to Ms Lydia Clinton ([l.clinton@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:l.clinton@ucl.ac.uk)).

**Closing date:** 15<sup>th</sup> August 2019.

**Interview date:** w/c 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019