

Job Title:	Postdoctoral Research Associate in Epidemiology
Grade:	7
Salary:	£34,804 to £40,322 per annum
Department:	Centre for Environmental Health and Sustainability (CEHS), Department of Health Sciences
Hours:	Full time, or part time (minimum 0.8FTE, 30 hours per week) or job share considered
Contract:	Fixed term contract for two years
Reference:	2225

Role Purpose

To conduct epidemiological research into health effects of environmental exposures as part of the new National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) Health Protection Research Unit (HPRU) in Environmental Exposures and Health at the University of Leicester.

The HPRU assesses health risks from exposures to various pollutants including volatile organic compounds (VOCs), environmental transport noise and bioaerosols (moulds and pollen exposures). We are also involved in various national initiatives on COVID-19 in relation to role of air pollution. You will conduct independent research on a range of projects as part of the HPRU team, including leading on development of epidemiological projects and analysis plans, conducting statistical analyses and assisting or leading in the production of scientific and technical reports and journal submissions.

The NIHR HPRU in environmental exposures and health at University of Leicester is a partnership with Public Health England (PHE, shortly to become part of the National Institute for Health Protection NIHP) and the Health & Safety Executive (HSE), with opportunities for short-term placements and collaborations.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

- Working closely with Professor Anna Hansell and other researchers in the NIHR HPRU at University of Leicester, PHE and HSE to design and develop research plans in relation to environmental exposures and health in HPRU project areas including in VOCs, bioaerosols and environmental noise
- Conducting statistical analyses for HPRU environmental epidemiology projects
- Contributing to the writing of reports, publications and grant applications: this will include taking primary responsibility for drafting some research papers and reports, and contributing as a junior partner to the authorship of others as well as contributing to development of grant applications
- Liaising with collaborators of the project to ensure the smooth progression of the research (including taking a lead role in liaising with one or more collaborators where agreed with line manager)
- Attending project meetings (in Leicester, UK and elsewhere in the UK) and to present work at external scientific meetings, workshops and conferences so as to improve the reputation of the group and that of the role holder

To undertake such duties consistent with the grade of the post as may be reasonably required



Internal and External Relationships

Regular 1:1 meetings with line manager Professor Anna Hansell (Director of the NIHR HPRU at the University of Leicester)

Team meetings with members of the Centre for Environmental Health and Sustainability at the University of Leicester (where the HPRU is based), a research group of ~15 individuals

HPRU meetings (several times per year) with HPRU investigators based at University of Leicester, PHE (Chilton) and HSE

Regular research meetings with project team investigators in the HPRU, based at Leicester, PHE and HSE

Potential for short-term placements at PHE and HSE

Meetings with external organisations e.g. researchers or staff at UK Biobank or ALSPAC cohorts, national and local government

Planning and Organising

The post-holder will be responsible for the day-to-day management and progress of the various project elements in relation to specified milestones and deliverables. Regular meetings will be held between the post-holder and Professor Anna Hansell (HPRU Director) and other researchers within CEHS; occasional meetings will be held, either in person or online via e.g. Skype/Teams/Zoom, with external project partners. The post-holder will be required to effectively manage their time to deliver on the priorities of the post, and arrange meetings as required in order to respond to challenges and to facilitate progress

Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience

Essential

- A PhD in epidemiology, medical statistics, biostatistics, or related discipline (already awarded or award expected within 3 months)*
- Experience in statistical analysis of epidemiological datasets*
- Evidence of research productivity (including high-quality research publications, presentations)*
- Experience of handling large and complex administrative and/or cohort data sets*
- Knowledge of epidemiological study designs*
- Experience working in environmental epidemiology*

Desirable

- Practical experience of developing and conducting epidemiological studies*
- Knowledge of Geographical Information Systems (GIS)*
- Experience of protocol and report preparation*
- Experience working in a multi-disciplinary team





- Experience of translating research into health and public health practice and policy
- Project management experience

Skills, Abilities and Competencies

Essential

- Strong quantitative and computational skills, including statistical programming (in ideally R, STATA)*
- Excellent written and oral communication skills*
- Excellent organisational and time management skills in order to meet deadlines
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Ability to learn quickly in new areas of work;
- Ability to work independently and as part of an international team
- Ability to supervise research students and junior staff as required
- Flexible approach to dealing with research problems as they arise
- High level of proficiency in English, sufficient to undertake research and administrative activities utilising English Language materials and to communicate effectively with staff and students*

Desirable

- Willingness to learn and develop new knowledge and skills

****Criteria to be used in shortlisting candidates for interview***

Reason for Fixed Term Contract

The reason for the fixed term contract is stated in section 1.9 in the summary of contractual terms in your contract of employment.

Criminal Declaration

If you become an employee, you must inform your manager immediately, in writing, if you are the subject of any current or future police investigations/legal proceedings, which could result in a criminal offence, conviction, caution, bind-over or charges, or warnings.

VITAL

The University encourages all staff to live our [VITAL values](#) which are:

Valuing People, Innovators, Together, Accountable, Leaders.

Equality and Diversity

We believe that equality, diversity and inclusion is integral to a successful modern workplace. By developing and implementing policies and systems that challenge stereotypes across all aspects of our





work, we have a culture that recognises and values the diverse contributions of our staff which benefits everyone. Our strong values of inclusivity and equality support our efforts to attract a diverse range of high quality staff and students, and identify our University as a progressive and innovative workplace that mainstreams equality, diversity and inclusion.

