

Job Description

Job Title:	MRC Centre Early Career Research Fellow
Department/Division/Faculty:	Environmental Research Group, School of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine
Campus location:	White City Campus
Job Family/Level:	Research, Research Associate
Responsible to:	Primary mentors among the MRC Centre for Environment and Health members
Line Management responsibility for:	N/A
Key Working Relationships (internal):	Professor Paul Elliott (Centre Director), Professor Frank Kelly (Centre Deputy Director) and MRC Centre investigators across Imperial College London
Key Working Relationships (external):	Other collaborators depending on project
Contract type:	Full time for a fixed term of 24 months

Purpose of the Post

The post is funded by the MRC Centre for Environment and Health's Early Career Fellowship Programme to plan and carry out a challenging and ambitious programme of research in one of the Centre's core research areas, Environmental Exposures. Proposals must be relevant to the Centre's overarching research scope, and the research focus should fall within at least one of the following key areas; multidisciplinary proposals which cross other themes within the Centre are encouraged:

- Aerosol science
- Air pollution modelling
- Improved methods for air pollution epidemiology
- Exposure assessment
- Emerging environmental hazards, such as chemicals and microplastics

These fellowships aim to attract exceptional candidates with strong quantitative skills to support them to develop as competitive, independent researchers and fulfil their long-term career goals. Applicants should select primary mentors among the Environmental Exposures Theme members based at Imperial College London in the [Environmental Research Group](https://environment-health.ac.uk/environmental-exposures/), (see list of Principal team members on the Centre's website <https://environment-health.ac.uk/environmental-exposures/>). Full salary costs for up to two years are provided, as well as appropriate research expenses.

Applicants are required to produce a research proposal describing their plans to develop a high-quality, independent research programme within the course of the fellowship. This is an important part of the application and will form a key element of the selection process.

Applications will be assessed on the quality of the research proposal, on the candidate's standing as demonstrated by the extent to which they meet the personal criteria in the job description, and on their potential to develop an independent research career.

Research Environment

The [MRC Centre for Environment and Health](https://environment-health.ac.uk/) is a nationally and internationally recognised leader in multidisciplinary research and training on environment and health sciences. It promotes novel cross-disciplinary research approaches, integrating individual-level and small-area analyses of environmental exposures and health, together with experimental data, biomarker and mechanistic studies, and analyses of large population cohorts. The formation of the Centre in 2009 catalysed several new research programmes

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and the renewal of its funding in 2014 and in 2019 allowed the Centre to build on its key strengths in research and training.

The Centre's Early Career Fellowship Programme provides a supportive and vibrant training environment for early-career scientists seeking to develop the skills needed to address future challenges in environment and health research. There will be unique opportunities for the fellows to access, analyse, interpret and publish from the wealth of data held available and being generated by the Centre, including routine health, multi-omics, toxicological and environmental data. Successful candidates will be supported by at least one mentor, as well as by the Centre's Training Programme and the Researchers' Society.

For more information on the MRC Centre, its membership and research programmes, please see our [website](#).

Person Specification

Requirements

Candidates/post holders will be expected to demonstrate the following

**Essential (E)/
Desirable (D)**

Education	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A PhD or equivalent in exposure science / epidemiology / biostatistics or in a related field of study (awarded by the start date of the Fellowship) 	E
Knowledge and Experience	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extensive experience and knowledge in at least one of the following disciplines: environmental or molecular epidemiology, computational biology, bioinformatics, biostatistics, geographical information systems (GIS), small area health statistics, exposure sciences, mathematical sciences, environmental sciences 	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track record of technical and scholarly excellence as demonstrated by a record of high-quality publications in international peer-reviewed journals, and/or methods development and application 	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track record of working successfully in multi-disciplinary research teams and environments that combine novel methods and applications 	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience of presentation of work at significant conferences 	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrated ability to interact with other academics 	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of having made a significant contribution to writing research proposals 	D
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience of the supervision of research of undergraduate/postgraduate students or postdoctoral staff 	D
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of teaching and teaching support 	D
Skills & Abilities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to produce an original and innovative research proposal which addresses an important research question relevant to the Centre and proposes a high-quality research programme to achieve the stated objectives 	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to conduct a detailed review of scientific evidence 	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent quantitative skills 	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to develop and apply new concepts 	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creative approach to problem-solving 	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent verbal communication skills and the ability to deal with a wide range of people 	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent written communication skills and the ability to write clearly and succinctly for publication 	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to organise own work with minimal supervision and prioritise own work in response to deadlines 	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to direct the work of a small research team and motivate others to produce a high standard of work 	D
Personal Attributes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential to develop as an independent future research leader 	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Willingness to work as part of a team and to be open-minded and cooperative 	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flexible attitude towards work and willingness to work out of normal working hours (including weekends) if the requirements of the project demand it 	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discipline and regard for confidentiality and security at all times 	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Willingness to undertake any necessary training for the role 	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Willingness to travel both within the United Kingdom and abroad to conduct research and attend conferences 	E

Please note that job descriptions cannot be exhaustive, and the post-holder may be required to undertake other duties, which are broadly in line with the above key responsibilities.

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Imperial College is committed to equality of opportunity and to eliminating discrimination. All employees are expected to follow the [7 Imperial Expectations](#) detailed below:

- 1) Champion a positive approach to change and opportunity
- 2) Encourage inclusive participation and eliminate discrimination
- 3) Communicate regularly and effectively within and across teams
- 4) Consider the thoughts and expectations of others
- 5) Deliver positive outcomes
- 6) Develop and grow skills and expertise
- 7) Work in a planned and managed way

Employees are also required to comply with all College policies and regulations paying special attention to:

- Confidentiality
- Conflict of Interest
- Data Protection
- Equal Opportunities
- Financial Regulations
- Health and Safety
- Information Technology
- Smoking
- Private Engagements and Register of Interests

They must also undertake specific training and assume responsibility for safety relevant to specific roles, as set out on the [College Website Health and Safety Structure and Responsibilities](#) page.

The College is a proud signatory to the San-Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), which means that in hiring and promotion decisions, we evaluate applicants on the quality of their work, not the journal impact factor where it is published. For more information, see <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/research-and-innovation/about-imperial-research/research-evaluation/>

The College believes that the use of animals in research is vital to improve human and animal health and welfare. Animals may only be used in research programmes where their use is shown to be necessary for developing new treatments and making medical advances. Imperial is committed to ensuring that, in cases where this research is deemed essential, all animals in the College's care are treated with full respect, and that all staff involved with this work show due consideration at every level. <http://www.imperial.ac.uk/research-and-innovation/about-imperial-research/research-integrity/animal-research/>

We are committed to equality of opportunity, to eliminating discrimination and to creating an inclusive working environment for all. We therefore encourage candidates to apply irrespective of age, disability, marriage or civil partnership status, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion and belief, gender identity, sex, or sexual orientation. We are an Athena SWAN Silver Award winner, a Disability Confident Leader and a Stonewall Diversity Champion.

March 2021