

## Job Description

<b>Job Title:</b>	WHO Liaison Fellow (Research Fellow or Research Associate)
<b>Department/Division/Faculty:</b>	MRC Centre for Global Infectious Disease Analysis, Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, School of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine
<b>Campus/Location:</b>	St Mary's Campus (Paddington)
<b>Job Family/Level:</b>	Research, Research Fellow or Research Associate ( <a href="#">Pay Scale</a> )
<b>Responsible to:</b>	Professor Azra Ghani, Dr Anne Cori
<b>Key Working Relationships (Internal):</b>	Leadership and staff within the MRC Centre for Global Infectious Disease Analysis and the Dept of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, School of Public Health; Director of the Translational Modelling Hub; External Relationships and Communications Manager
<b>Key Working Relationships (External):</b>	Leadership and senior technical staff within the World Health Organization (WHO), specifically the WHO Health Emergencies Programme (WHE), the Infectious Hazards Management Department (IHM), Health Information and Risk Assessment (HIM) Department, Global Influenza Programme (GIP), Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN), the WHO Initiative for Vaccine Research (IVR), among other departments.
<b>Contract type:</b>	Full time, Fixed term until 13 June 2026
<b>Research Programme</b>	
<p>The Medical Research Council (MRC) Centre for Global Infectious Disease Analysis was founded in 2007. The mission of the Centre is to be an international resource and centre of excellence for research and training in the epidemiological analysis and modelling of infectious diseases. The Centre has built upon a world-leading research group in the Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at Imperial College London to undertake applied collaborative work with national and international agencies in support of policy planning and response across a wide range of emerging infectious disease threats and global health challenges. The Centre is a World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Infectious Disease Modelling (Co-Directors: Professor Azra Ghani and Dr Anne Cori) and staff of the Centre work closely with WHO across a wide range of disease areas.</p>	
<b>Purpose of the Post</b>	
<p>To enable the MRC Centre for Global Infectious Disease Analysis to maintain a close collaborative relationship with the World Health Organization and thus help the Centre deliver its mission of translating leading edge research on infectious disease dynamics into improvements in public health decision making. The post holder will develop and lead collaborative research projects with a focus on supporting the Centre's research theme in preparedness and response to emerging threats. The postholder will work with academic staff and research teams across the Centre, as well as interacting closely with the Director of the MRC Centre Translational Modelling Hub and the MRC Centre leadership team to ensure that the work meets WHO's needs.</p>	
<b>Key Responsibilities</b>	
<p>To serve as the liaison between the MRC Centre for Global Infectious Disease Analysis and World Health Organization (including headquarters in Geneva, the Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence in Berlin</p>	

and the European regional office in Copenhagen) and to undertake, develop and/or manage research projects where the MRC Centre can support WHO programmatic activities:

- To manage complex multi-country collaborations
- To coordinate expertise and provide technical assistance to several departments in WHO, particularly in response to a outbreak or urgent event.
- To coordinate panels of external experts to advise WHO.
- To plan workshops at WHO and international meetings of technical experts in Geneva and London.
- To develop multiple collaborative projects between Imperial College London and WHO, involving negotiating the scope and timing of potential work.
- To represent the MRC Centre at research and public health meetings internationally.
- To independently meet with WHO staff to develop collaborations with WHO programmes in which Centre staff can usefully provide technical expertise to address policy decisions.
- To be responsible for the reporting, planning and application process required for the MRC Centre to maintain WHO Collaborating Centre Status.

#### Research Duties:

- To take initiative in the planning and leading of research in collaboration with WHO where necessary
- To manage research projects
- To direct the work of small research teams, supervising and taking responsibility for the research team particularly in the event of an outbreak
- To support the Centre Director and other Centre PIs in collaborative WHO projects as needed
- To write reports for submission to research sponsors
- To present findings via publications to referred journals and to colleagues at conferences
- To provide guidance to staff and students
- To attend relevant workshops and conferences as necessary
- To develop contacts and research collaborations within the College and the wider community
- To promote the reputation of the Group, the Department and the College

#### Other Duties:

- Contribute towards undergraduate and postgraduate courses within the regulations of the awarding body of the funder.
- To undertake appropriate administration tasks
- Contribute to departmental management as required
- Monitor and ensure effective management of assets and budgets allocated as part of the role
- For members of staff who have responsibility for collecting, inputting and maintaining data] To be responsible for ensuring that data is accurate, up-to-date and complete.
- To attend relevant meetings nationally and internationally
- To undertake any necessary training and/or development

## Person Specification

<b>Requirements</b>	<b>Essential (E)/ Desirable (D)</b>
Candidates/post holders will be expected to demonstrate the following:	
<b>Education</b>	
PhD in infectious disease epidemiology, mathematical modelling, statistics or related subject or a similar quantitative discipline.	E
<b>Knowledge &amp; Experience</b>	
Leading and managing complex collaborations.	E (for Research Fellow) / D (for Research Associate)
Working with senior government officials, technical staff and policymakers	D
Experience with reviewing, analysing and synthesising scientific papers and reports	E (for Research Fellow) / D (for Research Associate)
Communicating technical scientific results in written and verbal formats to policy makers	E
Previous work with public health bodies and/or UN agencies and/or ministries of health	D
Experience of working with external collaborators in the UK and overseas.	D
Experience in presenting results to specialist and non-specialist audiences.	D
A good knowledge of the current remit of the World Health Organization Emergencies Programme and the architecture of global outbreak response governance	D
Knowledge of the statistical and mathematical modelling methods used to analyse and simulate infectious disease outbreaks and to inform control policy planning	E
Experience in using Github as a collaborative coding environment	E
<b>Skills &amp; Abilities</b>	
Strong programming skills, ideally with experience in R and R packages	E
Highly developed interpersonal skills	E
Ability to research new areas of public health or epidemiology, synthesise information, and summarise it formally.	E
The ability to work independently, including potentially spending extended periods in WHO offices	E
Project management skills: ability to effectively coordinate teams of researchers under a matrix management approach.	E (for Research Fellow) / D (for Research Associate)
Ability to interact with policy makers and other academics, especially in other disciplines.	E
Excellent verbal communication skills and the ability to deal with a wide range of people.	E
Excellent written communication skills and the ability to write clearly and succinctly for publication.	E
Ability to prioritise own work in response to deadlines.	E
<b>Other</b>	
Creative approach to problem-solving	E
Demonstrated ability to be creative, proactive, and solve problems	E
Willingness to work as part of a team and to be open-minded and cooperative	E

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Willingness to develop cross-disciplinary projects involving epidemiology, mathematical modelling, health economics and public health	E
Willingness to travel both within the United Kingdom and abroad to conduct research and attend conferences	E
Discipline and regard for confidentiality and data security at all times	E
Willingness to undertake any necessary training for the role	E
Willingness to travel both within the United Kingdom and abroad to conduct research and attend conferences	E

## Further Information

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.

Imperial College is committed to equality of opportunity and to eliminating discrimination. All employees are expected to follow the [Imperial Values & Behaviours framework](#). Our values are:

- Respect
- Collaboration
- Excellence
- Integrity
- Innovation

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 currently trialling a Work Location Framework until early 2023. Hybrid working may be considered for this role and the role holder may be expected to work 60% or more of their time onsite, with 40% the minimum time spent onsite. The opportunity for hybrid working will be discussed at interview.*

*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 which are ultimately aimed towards finding new treatments and making scientific and medical advances, and where there are no satisfactory or reasonably practical alternatives to their use. 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. [Find out more about animal research at Imperial.](#)*

*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](#).*

**August 2023**