Job Description for NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship in Public Health in Prevention and Public Health (ST1-2)

1. **Job Title: NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow (ACF) in Public Health**

2. **Duration of post: 3 years**

The post starts at ST1 or ST2 level. The ACF training time is divided between:

- 25% of the time is in academic training that can encompass research in clinical epidemiology, applied health research, global health, health informatics, child health, women's and reproductive health and / or infectious diseases epidemiology.
- 75% of the time is in general specialty public health training.

All ACF applicants at ST1 level need to apply through the general public health recruitment portal on Oriel and undertake the Assessment Centre and Selection Centre processes in Autumn 2026 to be benchmarked. Applicants at ST2 level in Public Health will have been through Assessment and Selection Centers and benchmarked at the time of recruitment to Public Health Specialty Training at ST1 level.

See National Public Health Specialty Training Recruitment for further information on specialty recruitment.

Applicants from a Multiprofessional Background (MPB) can only apply at ST2 level.

3. **Research institutions in which training will take place**

The academic component of the ACF post, 25% of the total training time, will be based in the Faculty of Population Health Sciences at UCL which brings together expertise in population health, infection, global health, health informatics, applied health, child health, women's and reproductive health, cancer early detection and early diagnosis, public health genomics, clinical trials and cardiovascular science. Its aim is to deliver outstanding research and teaching for improved human health; and the unifying concept that informs its scholarship and educational activity is the life course. UCL has extensive experience of hosting public health resident doctors in training (referring to those with a medical or a multiprofessional background, both academic trainees and those seeking general academic experience, being registered as a training location.

The post holder will be expected to develop a proposal for a research training fellowship under the supervision of investigators at UCL. The ACF will be based in any of the following five Departments / Centers in four of the Institutes in the Faculty. The ACF may choose in which of the training locations they wish to be based.

All accredited public health supervisors have an honorary or other close links with the NHS or local authorities in North London or surrounding areas, and/or with UKHSA or DHSC.

- ***Institute for Global Health (Director, Prof Shabbar Jaffar)***

The UCL Institute for Global Health (IGH) is an interdisciplinary research institute located at UCL three sites: Guilford Street, Mortimer Market Centre, and the Royal Free Hospital, and it is home to three research departments, the Department for Infection and Population Health, the Department for Global Health, Equality, and Social Justice, and the Department for Environment and Community Health. IGH leads the National Surveys of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles (Natsal), the world's largest, most detailed studies of sexual behaviour, and hosts the WHO Collaborating Centre for TB Research and the Lancet Countdown: Tracking progress on health and climate change and Lancet Commission on Migration and Health. IGH has strong research links in Europe, South-East Asia, Africa, China and South America and there are active research partnerships and field sites in about 40 countries.

Public Health trained project supervisors at IGH are Prof Nigel Field (ES), Prof Pam Sonnenberg, and Prof Delanjathan Devakumar.

- ***Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Institute for Women's Health (Director, Prof Anna David)***

The UCL Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Institute for Women's Health (IfWH) is an interdisciplinary centre of excellence dedicated to improving the health and well-being of women, mothers, and babies worldwide. The Institute brings together clinicians, scientists, and public health researchers across four core themes: Maternal and Fetal Medicine, Reproductive Health, Women's Cancer, and Neonatology. In close partnership with University College London Hospitals (UCLH) NHS Foundation Trust, IfWH translates biomedical and epidemiological discoveries into global clinical practice and health policy. The Institute hosts the NIHR Policy Research Unit in Reproductive Health (Prof Jennifer Hall and Prof Judith Stephenson).

Public Health trained project supervisors at IfWH include Prof Jennifer Hall.

- ***The Institute of Health Informatics (Director, Prof Laura Shallcross)***

The Institute for Health Informatics (IHI) leads the London arm of Health Data Research UK Health informatics uses information technologies to improve health, from big data to designing software used by clinicians, or apps used by patients and the public. There is a thriving programme of research in public health data science which includes projects on antimicrobial resistance, tuberculosis, health of underserved populations, migrant health predictive analyses and learning population health systems. IHI hosts VIVALDI and the VIVALDI Social Care project (led by Prof Laura Shallcross). VIVALDI was one of the largest studies of COVID-19 in care home staff and residents in the world. The VIVALDI Social care project, which has been co-produced with people who live and work in care homes, is building on this learning to transform our ability to deliver public health research in this setting.

Public Health trained project supervisors at IHI are Prof Laura Shallcross and Dr Victoria Hall (ES).

- ***Great Ormand Street Institute of Child Health (Director, Prof Helen Cross)***

Together with Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, the Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health (GOSICH) forms the largest concentration of child health research in Europe. There are five research departments that collectively span genetic, biological, development, clinical and public health research. Within the institute, public health research is predominantly concentrated in the Population, Policy and Practice department.

- ***Population, Policy and Practice (PPP) (Heads of Department, Prof Russel Viner and Prof Lee Hudson)***

The Population, Policy and Practice (PPP) department aims to improve the health of children and young people now and throughout their adult lives. It hosts a multi-disciplinary group of academics with an international reputation for innovative discovery science, translational research and teaching that shape clinical practice, health service provision and public health policy.

The Child Health Informatics Group (Prof Ruth Gilbert, Prof Katie Harron and Prof Pia Hardelid) uses large, administrative health data (such as primary care, hospital and mortality databases) to answer policy-relevant questions about children's health and use of health services and also hosts the NIHR Children and Families Policy Research Unit. The Public Health and Obesity Group (Prof Oliver Mytton and Dr Simon Russell), which hosts the NIHR Healthy Weight Policy Research Unit works closely with national and local government to deliver timely relevant academic advice and evidence to inform obesity policy, undertaking both primary research and evidence synthesis. Other key research areas include infectious diseases in pregnancy (Prof Claire Thorne), childhood vision and eye disorders (Prof Jugnoo Rahi and Prof Lola Solebo), childhood immunization and vaccination (Prof Helen Bedford), paediatric nutrition (Profs Jonathan Wells, Mary Fewtrell, Atul Singhal), birth cohort and lifecourse analysis (Prof Leah Li), rare and congenital disorders (Prof Rachel Knowles), screening and surveillance of childhood disorders, and global health.

Public Health trained project supervisors at GOSICH are Prof Rachel Knowles (ES) and Prof Oliver Mytton (ES).

- ***The Institute of Epidemiology and Healthcare (IEHC) (Director, Prof Fiona Stephenson)*** Institute of Epidemiology and Health Care
  - ***Epidemiology and Public Health (EPH)***

The academic environment at the UCL Department of Epidemiology & Public Health (EPH) is internationally acclaimed, particularly the Department's work on longitudinal epidemiological studies of social determinants of health. Part of the Health and Social Surveys Research Group, the Joint Health Surveys Unit is responsible for the annual Health Survey for England (HSE).

Other research groups within the Department host public health resident doctors in training. These include Prof Sir Michael Marmot (Institute for Health Equity), Prof Nora Groce (Leonard Cheshire Unit for Disability and Inclusive Development), and Prof Martin Bobak (Central & Eastern Europe Research Group).

- **Primary Care and Population Health (PCPH)**

PCPH undertakes world-leading research in primary care and population health, addressing the management and prevention of disease in high-priority areas of health. We deliver high-quality teaching in primary care and population health in a range of health and community settings. PCPH has hosted 10 ACLs and 46 ACFs since 2007 and has supported 33 successful applications for doctoral fellowships since 2015. The Department currently has 36 PhD students supervised in PCPH. It is part of the NIHR School for Primary Care Research (SPCR) which has extensive opportunities for collaboration/funding/training. Groups and centres within PCPH include mental health, eHealth, Ageing, the Centre for Applied Health Research and Health Determinants and Inequalities. Dr Jessica Sheringham leads the Public Health, Health Determinants and Health Inequalities Group that undertakes research on housing and health.

- **Behaviour Science and Health** (BSH)

The Research Department of Behavioural Science and Health is dedicated to research on how human behaviour impacts health and health outcomes. Our research and teaching reflect our interdisciplinary approach to health and wellbeing, focusing on a broad range of public health issues, such as alcohol and tobacco use, heart disease, cancer, and obesity. It includes policy relevant research on early diagnosis of cancer (Profs Christian von Wagner and Yoryos Lyratzopoulos), tobacco and alcohol policy (Prof Jamie Brown), healthy weight policy within the Research into Eating, Activity and Health Group (Prof Clare Llewellyn and Prof Abi Fisher) and healthcare organisation and management (Professor Naomi Fulop).

Current UCL Public Health Educational Supervisors are listed below.

Training location	Educational supervisor	Email
Institute for Global Health	Prof Nigel Field	nigel.field@ucl.ac.uk
Institute of Health Informatics	Dr Victoria Hall	victoria.hall@ucl.ac.uk
UCL Great Ormond Street Institute for Child Health	Prof Rachel Knowles	rachel.knowles@ucl.ac.uk
UCL Great Ormond Street Institute for Child Health	Prof Oliver Mytton	o.mytton@ucl.ac.uk
Institute of Epidemiology and Health Care	Dr Jessica Sheringham	j.sheringham@ucl.ac.uk
Institute of Epidemiology and Health Care	Dr Logan Manikam	logan.manikam.10@ucl.ac.uk
Institute of Epidemiology and Health Care	Dr Serena Luchenski	s.luchenski@ucl.ac.uk

The post is offered in partnership with UK Health Security Agency - GOV.UK and the successful candidate will be encouraged to take advantage of UCL's strong public health links with UKHSA in developing their programme of research.

UKHSA is an executive agency, sponsored by the Department of Health and Social Care. UKHSA is responsible for protecting every member of every community from the impact of infectious diseases, chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear incidents and other health threats, and provides scientific and operational leadership working with local, national and international partners to protect the public's health and build the nation's health security capability.

UKHSA is committed to reducing health inequalities and addressing health inequity in our population and supporting everyone to live healthier lives with more equal outcomes. UKHSA equality objectives 2023 to 2026 and Health Equity for Health Security Strategy, sets out a roadmap to achieve more equitable health security outcomes. One of the four strategies is 'working with communities, across the health system, local and national government, academia, and the private sector to deliver health equity for health security.' Heath equity is embedded throughout all UKHSA's work.

Training is integral to UKHSA; experience includes supporting public health and medical microbiology registrars and numerous fellowship programmes. UKHSA has many educational supervisors to enable high quality training, based across networks of regional and reference laboratories and within national teams. The Postgraduate Training Faculty has a role in the oversight of training delivered across the organisation, with oversight of the Chief Medical Officer. In addition to this, the Postgraduate Training Faculty facilitates the networking of clinical and public health fellows across UKHSA and academic institutes, to strengthen partnership working. This is led by Dr John Battersby (ES), Head of Postgraduate Training Faculty.

4. Timetabling of clinical and research time

The ACF post is 75:25 split between general public health specialty training and academic training. Public Health ACFs in London typically take an initial block of time in a local authority placement and a later academic block, rather than work concurrently in two placements. Arrangements need to be agreed by the ACF with the Training Programme Director, the specialty training educational supervisor and Academic lead.

At the end of the three-year ACF post, if successful in obtaining a research training fellowship, the ACF will generally take a period Out of Programme to complete their PhD. Otherwise, the ACF will join the general London public health training scheme.

5. Description of research component of programme

Academic training comprises 25% of the ACF time. During this time, the ACF will develop their research interests, network of collaborators, and where possible a publication track record in a specific area of public health research and build a proposal for a clinical research training fellowship (or a post-doctoral fellowship if they already hold a research doctorate) under the supervision of investigators at UCL. The programme is trainee-centered and encourages trainees to spend time rotating through different research groups to optimise the fit between trainee, topic, and supervisor. The supervisor/mentor will provide support in choosing an

appropriate MSc research project (if the ACF is enrolled in an MSc) and a PhD project and will work with the ACF to develop their ideas and prepare a Fellowship application for a PhD (or postdoctoral research if the ACF already has PhD). In addition to the Supervisors, the ACF will receive additional mentorship support from the Academic Leads for UCL ACFs in Public Health, Prof Oliver Mytton and Dr Jessica Sherringham.

To ensure that ACFs have a balanced academic portfolio, all ACFs will be expected to contribute towards teaching activities with the Faculty of Population Health Sciences. This will also contribute to teaching competencies in the public health training programme. Educational supervisors will ensure this is at a level that will not limit their development as a researcher.

The UCL Clinical Academic Training Office will provide administrative support and access to the NIHR Annual Bursary of £1,000 each year they are in post for conference fees, workshops and research visits including travel, registration and hotel costs, and to the NIHR MSc Training Fund.

6. Description of clinical training component of programme

Specialty Public Health training comprises 75% of time in this post. The Public Health ACF will undertake training in the London public health training scheme.

- For an ACF starting at ST1 level, the three-year post incorporates most of the time that public health resident doctors spend in local level public health, at the local authority and health protection, over the course of their training. Further local level and health protection places may be required later in training to complete specific curriculum learning outcomes.
- An ACF starting at ST2 level needs to hold a current NTN.

Public Health ACFs will undertake an accredited Public Health Master's degree, if they have not already done so, in the first or second year of the training, following discussion with their Training Programme Director. The MSc has traditionally been taken at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. The ACF will be expected to pass their Faculty of Public Health Diplomate Examination and Final Membership Examination during the three years of their ACF. The ACF will be expected to comply with ARCP process requirements as set by NHS England and make good progress in their training.

Public Health ACFs will be allocated an educational supervisor for each placement. Public Health ACFs will undertake on-call for health protection once assessed as competent until deemed competent to undertake out of hours work unsupervised.

See also FPH Specialty Training for further information on Public Health specialty training and on the training programme within School of Public Health - London

7. Academic Programme Directors

Prof Oliver Mytton – o.mytton@ucl.ac.uk
Dr Jessica Sheringham – j.sheringham@ucl.ac.uk

8. Clinical Programme Director name

Dr Julie George, Academic Training Programme Director - julie.george21@nhs.net

9. Programme contact for further information

Individuals wishing to enquire about public health training at UCL should e-mail the relevant educational supervisor or honorary public health consultants.

For further information about **IGH** contact:
- Prof Nigel Field nigel.field@ucl.ac.uk (Educational Supervisor)
- Prof Delanjathan Devakumar d.devakumar@ucl.ac.uk

For further information about **IHI** contact:
- Prof Laura Shallcross l.shallcross@ucl.ac.uk
- Dr Victoria Hall victoria.hall@ucl.ac.uk (Educational Supervisor)

For further information about **GOSICH** contact:
- Prof Oliver Mytton o.mytton@ucl.ac.uk (Educational Supervisor)
- Prof Rachel Knowles rachel.knowles@ucl.ac.uk (Educational Supervisor)

For further information about **IEHC**:
- Dr Logan Manikam logan.manikam.10@ucl.ac.uk (Educational Supervisor)
- Dr Jessica Sheringham j.sheringham@ucl.ac.uk (Educational Supervisor)
- Dr Serena Luchenski s.luchenski (EducationL Supervisor)

10. NHSE contact:
Specialty Team https://lasepgmdesupport.hee.nhs.uk/support/home
Recruitment Enquiries - https://lasepgmdesupport.hee.nhs.uk/support/home

11. Useful websites for further information IAT Guide | NIHR
https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/academy-programmes/integrated-academic-training.htm

12. Confirmation that the post attracts an NTN (A) - YES

This job description was prepared on 26th August 2026, amended 9.9.2026.