



UK Health
Security
Agency

UK Field Epidemiology Training Programme Prospectus 2022



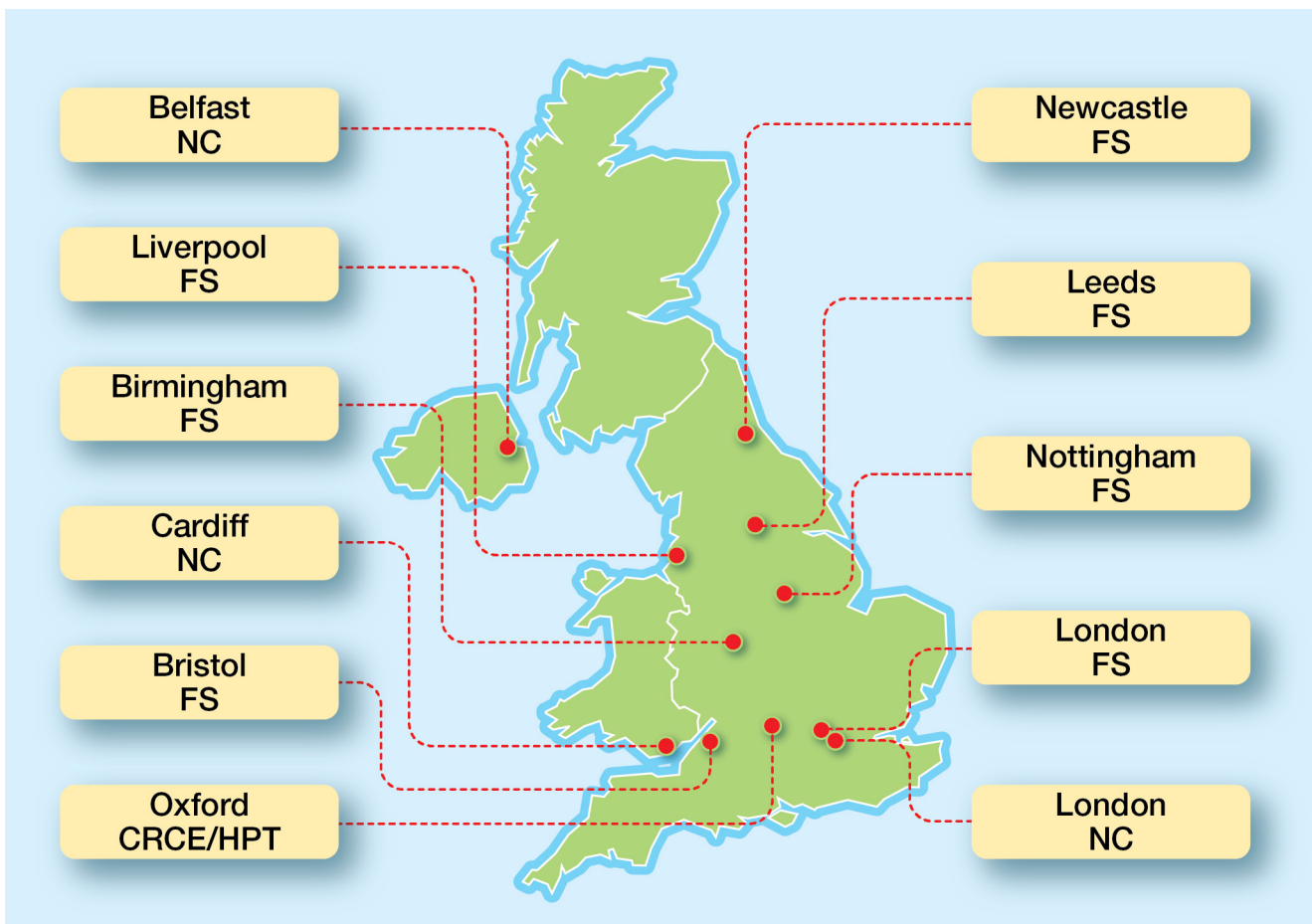
The UK Field Epidemiology Training Programme

The UK Field Epidemiology Training Programme (UKFETP) is a full-time 2-year fellowship programme, which provides training and practical experience in intervention epidemiology and aims to develop specialist field epidemiology skills.

Training is provided mainly through on-the-job service provision and learning activities, but at least 10-percent of time will be dedicated to formally taught training courses. The programme currently covers England, Wales and Northern Ireland.



There are 11 training sites. The majority are within Field Service (FS) teams. These teams are part of a nationally coordinated and managed service that is geographically dispersed with specialist field epidemiology teams spread across England. In addition, there are sites in National Centres (NC) and Health Protections Teams (HPT), who provide specialist public health advice and operational support to NHS/local authorities etc., and in the Centre for Radiation, Chemicals and Environmental Hazards (CRCE).



UKFETP goals

1. To strengthen capacity and provision of public health epidemiology.
2. To develop a network of skilled field epidemiologists with a shared sense of purpose, working to common standards across the UK and Europe.
3. To raise the profile of field epidemiology and embed this into everyday health protection practice.
4. To support UKHSA's global public health workplan through provision of fellows and staff to support international response and capacity building.

Graduation criteria

These are the minimum criteria to pass the programme but the fellowship has flexibility and time to support multiple projects in different areas, based on the needs of individual fellows.

1. Outbreak investigations

Conduct an analytical outbreak investigation

2. Surveillance

Develop, implement or evaluate a surveillance system

3. Research

Complete an applied epidemiology research project

4. Training

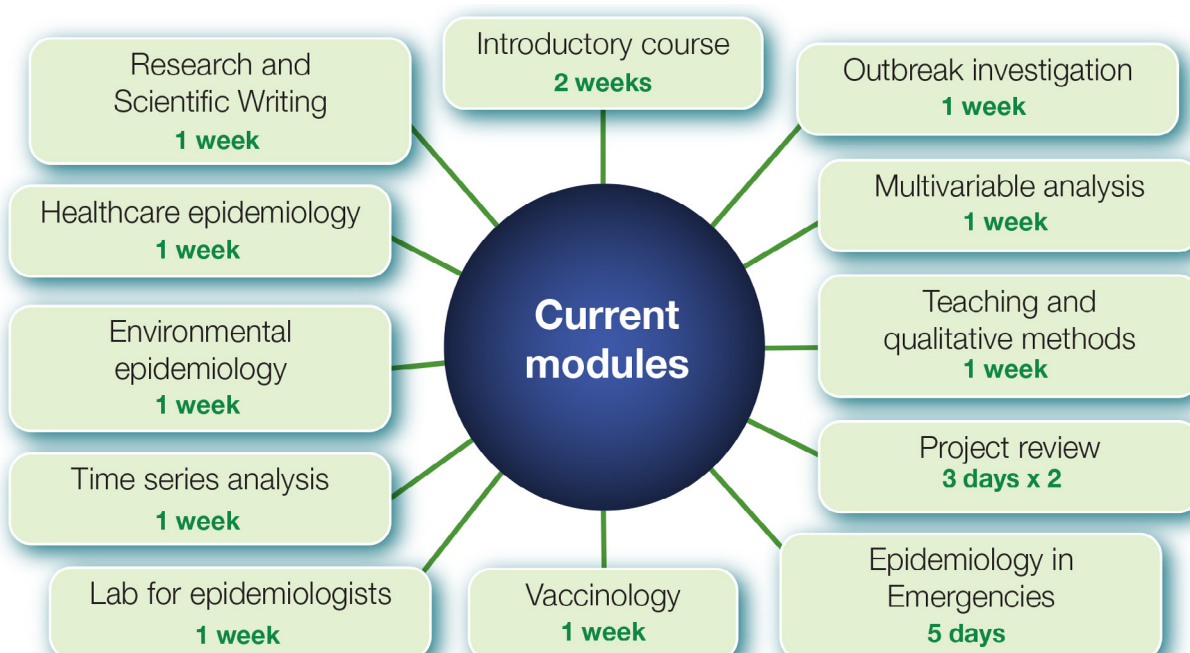
Conduct a learning needs assessment, develop, deliver and evaluate a teaching or training session

5. Communication

Submit a manuscript to a peer-reviewed journal and deliver an oral presentation at a national or international conference

6. Multivariable analysis

Demonstrate the use of multivariable analysis techniques in at least one project



Recruitment

February:

Recruitment opens

April:

Face to face interviews

September:

Start of fellowship

Where have our previous fellows come from?

- UKHSA, Public Health Wales, Public Health Agency Northern Ireland
- UK Faculty of Public health training programme
- other public health agencies / academia

Previous fellows have come from the following roles:

- epidemiological scientists and analysts
- public health nurses
- veterinary epidemiologists
- PhD graduates
- public health registrars

What do you need to be able to apply?

- a Masters degree or PhD in a scientific discipline with a significant health (human or animal), public health, epidemiology or data analysis component OR a minimum of 4 years supervised experience in Public Health, Epidemiology or Health Protection at the time of application
- demonstrable experience of working within public health, health protection or epidemiology for at least 18 months by the date of application. Time spent in education including PhD studies does not qualify
- be able to demonstrate how the UKFETP will be of benefit to your future career

Why do UKFETP?

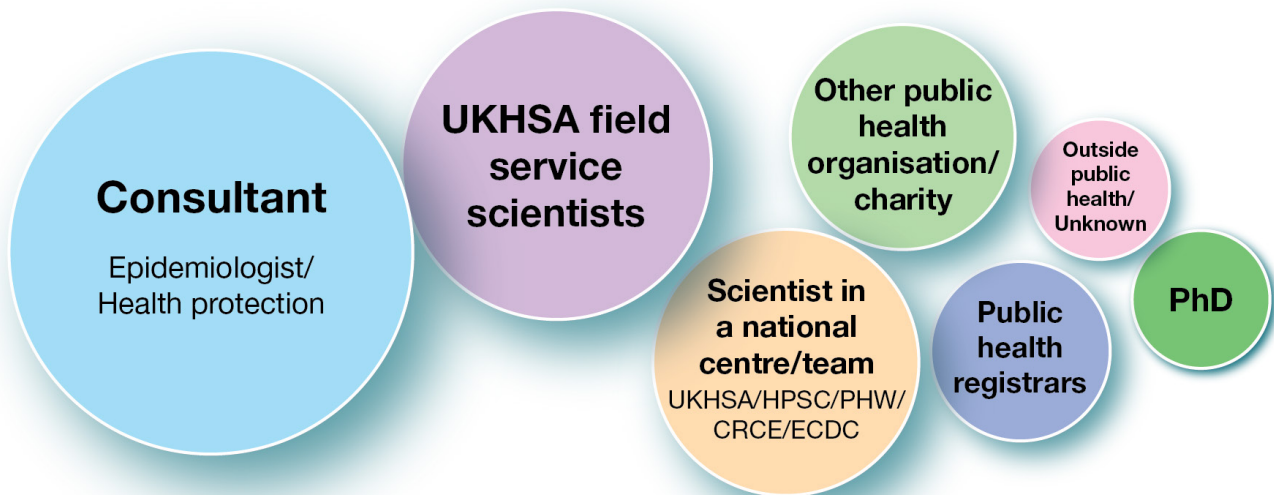
The 2-year fellowship will enable development, focussing on your individual training needs through on-the-job supervision. You will experience significant personal and professional growth and development, but the programme does not offer automatic career progression at the end of the fellowship. By the end of your training you can expect to become an independent field epidemiology professional with the capability to apply your knowledge, skills and experience in the real world.

What you can gain

- knowledge, experience and confidence
- networking skills and links to professionals with a common interest
- time out for structured learning / opportunity to develop key skills
- new ways of looking at things
- exposure to a variety of different project opportunities

Where have the fellows ended up?

Includes all fellows that have completed the programme, from 2011 onwards. All are current job roles in 2021.



From 2011 to the end of 2021:

- 50** graduated fellows
- 17** fellows in the programme

Fellows achievements

- 116** Peer reviewed papers published
- 127** Oral presentations at conferences
- 125** Poster presentations at conferences
- 48** International assignments

Graduating cohort (C19) highlights

Outbreaks

- TB outbreak in a prison in Wales
- outbreak of Shiga toxin producing Escherischia coli PT8 in England
- pseudomonas outbreak in an oncology unit
- national Salmonella outbreak associated with brazil nuts
- measles transmission in a hospital setting
- many COVID-19 outbreaks and national incident response activity

Surveillance

- shifting epidemiology of invasive Group A streptococci clusters in England
- evaluation of EIZ Epidemic Intelligence Database and Daily Report
- development of protocols for COVID-19 surveillance including for incoming travellers, for specific variants and in different contexts in the UK and in Cox's Bazar and the Gambia
- establishing a surveillance system for Variants and mutations of concern of COVID-19 in Wales

Research

- evaluation of COVID-19 antibody lateral flow tests
- using enteric Fever surveillance to assess antimicrobial resistance
- point prevalence of COVID-19 among domiciliary care staff in England
- investigation of key sources of lead exposure in children in Georgia
- differences in outcomes of patients with COVID-19, comparing hospital and community acquired infection

Teaching

- development of a case study based on a UK outbreak for teaching multivariable analysis
- development and delivery of training materials to support COVID-19 contact tracing activities
- outbreak investigation training for several teams - local and national
- contribution to various MPH programmes across the country
- learning needs assessments including for R training in the Midlands and for healthcare epidemiology in Wales

International missions

- remote surveillance of COVID-19 among refugees in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh
- developing a mortality survey in the Gambia
- undertaking vaccine effectiveness studies for COVID-19 vaccines in Azerbaijan
- deployment to WHO Western Pacific Region (Manila) to support COVID-19 response

Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre (CDSC), Public Health Wales

Key topic areas

CDSC is the National Surveillance Centre for Wales. There are therefore topic leads for each disease subject area including gastrointestinal infections, zoonoses, respiratory infections, tuberculosis, blood borne viruses and sexually transmitted infections. There is a strong interest in Healthcare associated infection (HCAI) and Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) within the team and extensive surveillance work ongoing. Wales has a team of healthcare epidemiologists based in health boards, enabling participation in hospital surveillance and field investigations.

Location of office: Capital Quarter in Cardiff, Wales – 10 minutes from Cardiff Central Station

Primary Field Supervisor: Dr Chris Williams. Christopher.Williams25@wales.nhs.uk

Academic links: Links to Swansea University, including access to research based on the data held in the Secure Anonymised Information Linkage (SAIL) databank.

University teaching on the Masters in Public Health (MHP) course at Cardiff University (one consultant is a lecturer on the MPH course)

Key Health Protection challenges

- COVID-19 and other acute respiratory infections
- restarting and reforming surveillance using the lessons from COVID-19, including data linkage and wider determinants of health
- environmental public health surveillance and the impacts of climate change
- improving detection of outbreaks and emerging threats

Recent fellow's projects

- Genomic surveillance for variants of COVID-19
- Risk of COVID-19 outbreaks in care homes following hospital discharges and staff cases
- Outbreak of Salmonella associated with a barbeque

Additional information

CDSC Wales has been an EPIET training site since 1996, hosting 8 EU-track and 2 MS-track fellows.

CDSC is co-located with the Cardiff and Vale Health Protection Team, as well as the environmental epidemiology and health and justice teams and the Pathogen Genomics Unit in Capital Quarter.

CDSC is close to University Hospital of Wales, where the Cardiff Public Health Microbiology Laboratory is situated, as well as the UK Anaerobe Reference Unit, the Specialist Antimicrobial Chemotherapy Unit, the Mycology Regional Reference Unit, the Wales Centre for Mycobacteria and the Wales Specialist Virology Centre.

CDSC has good links to Welsh government as well as to laboratory and communications staff, who offer placements to trainees. There is a friendly group of registrars and regular training and development sessions such as hot case debriefs and there are good opportunities for fellows to work on large research projects, such as the "Be on the TEAM" meningitis B study

Midlands Field Service Team (Nottingham and Birmingham)

- Location of office:** Seaton House, City Link, Nottingham and 23 Stephenson Street, Birmingham
- Primary Field Supervisor:** Richard Puleston. Richard.Puleston@phe.gov.uk and Helen Bagnall helen.bagnall@phe.gov.uk
- Academic links: Local:** University of Nottingham

Key Health Protection challenges

- high rates of Tuberculosis and STIs in some areas
- Legionnaires clusters in Nottingham
- migrant health in Lincolnshire
- HCAI outbreaks
- high levels of deprivation and homelessness in Nottingham
- densely populated urban areas and sparsely populated rural areas with varying infectious disease epidemiology
- large outbreak of measles in recent years, and a large West Midlands-wide measles needs assessment completed recently

Recent fellow's projects

- Is seasonal influenza vaccine effectiveness reduced in people receiving repeat vaccinations? A retrospective cohort study using the Clinical Practice Research Database
- Prospective cohort study of *Pneumocystis jirovecii* colonisation in renal transplant recipients
- Phylogenetic analysis of *Salmonella* Typhimurium DT104 human and animal isolates in the UK
- Evaluation of the national surveillance system in Myanmar
- Vaccination coverage survey following the mass vaccination campaigns for measles, cholera and polio in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh
- Evaluation of large-scale antibody testing programme in England (COVID-19)

Additional information

The East Midlands and West Midlands Field Service teams recently combined to become one team continuing to offer two training sites. Each of the two Field Service and Health Protection Teams are co-located in the same shared office, which enables strong working relationships and collaboration. The teams co-located with UKHSA's real-time syndromic surveillance team which also offers the opportunity for collaboration.

Health Protection Directorate Service, Public Health Agency Northern Ireland

Key topic areas

The HP Directorate OF PHANI is a National Centre providing and therefore involved in; surveillance of communicable disease at the local and regional levels, provision of support to primary and secondary healthcare professionals around health protection issues, field investigation of communicable disease outbreaks in the community and healthcare setting, multi professional training in communicable disease epidemiology and audit of communicable disease control, provision of support to the Department of Health on communicable disease policy and to the Health and Social Care Board on the commissioning of health services around health protection issues and implementation and monitoring of vaccination programmes.

Location of office: Linenhall Street, Belfast

Primary Field Supervisors: Jillian Johnston. jillian.johnston@hscni.net

Academic links: Queens University of Belfast

Key Health Protection challenges

- HCAI and AMR
- large agricultural sector and rural population
- challenges with healthcare staffing levels, currently unclear impact on health protection
- recent declines in vaccine coverage
- COVID-19 pandemic

Recent fellow's projects

- Changing epidemiology of Pneumocystis pneumonia (PCP), Northern Ireland, UK and implications for prevention, 1 July 2011 to 31 July 2012
- Enhanced surveillance of recently acquired new HIV diagnoses in Northern Ireland
- Antibiotic prescribing in older people and trends on movement into institutional care: a record linkage study
- Evaluation of CPE screening, detection, management and surveillance, 2012 to 2018
- Risk factors for community- and healthcare-associated E coli BSI in NI
- Monitoring and evaluation of NI HIV PrEP pilot
- Prison-level risk factors for increased numbers of GAS cases in prisons in England and Wales

Additional information

The HPS of PHANI has close working relationships with the Department of Health and Social Services, Health and Social Care Board, the hospitals and their laboratories, and with the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) (Scientific and Veterinary Services).

Clinical and Public Health Group, Colindale

Key topic areas

National teams:

Tuberculosis, Acute Respiratory, Emerging /Zoonotic Infections; Travel Health, Gastrointestinal Infections, Immunisation, Seasonal Influenza, Healthcare Associated infections and Antimicrobial resistance, Sepsis, Sexual Transmitted Infections, HIV and Blood borne viruses.

Location of office: Colindale, London (accessible via Northern Line)

Primary Field Supervisor: Gavin Dabrera. Gavin.dabrera@phe.gov.uk

Academic links: Departments are academically linked to a range of universities through the Health Protection Research Units. London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (Immunisation HPRU), Bristol University (Evaluation of Interventions), University College London (Blood Borne and sexually transmitted infection), Imperial College (Modelling and Health economics, HCAI/AMR), Liverpool University (Emerging and zoonotic infections, Gastro intestinal infections), Oxford University (HCAI/AMR)

Key Health Protection challenges

- responding to national incidents
- leadership for national surveillance – developing new systems and improving existing systems
- authoring and/or updating national guidance and policy

Recent fellow's projects

Surveillance:

- Lyme disease Enhanced Surveillance Protocol - A pilot study to strengthen the surveillance of laboratory confirmed cases of Lyme disease
- Pertussis infection in preschool age children in England: Data linkage / Capture-recapture
- Laboratory-based surveillance Psittacosis

Research:

- Risk factors associated with enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) infection: a case-control study
- Seroprevalence of SARS-CoV-2 among Blood Donors in England

Outbreak:

- National Hepatitis A Outbreak in England and Wales Linked to Medjool Dates
- Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) in the UK 2018: descriptive epidemiology

Teaching:

- Principles of surveillance – UKHSA/NIS Introduction course
- Learning needs assessment and Outbreak Investigation teaching for Epidemiology Scientists

Additional information

- co-located with North West London Health Protection Team
- involvement in national incidents e.g. Monkeypox 2019 and COVID-19
- additional duties include contributing to the daytime duty on-call rota – responding to HPT queries, conducting rabies risk assessments and immunoglobulin enquiries

North East and Yorkshire and Humber Field Service Team (North East)

Key topic areas

Field Service topic leads:

Hepatitis and Blood Safety, HCAI and AMR, Surveillance, Gastrointestinal Infections, Research, Development and Translation, Global Health

Research interests:

Surveillance, HCAI and AMR, STIs, GI

Location of office: Civic Centre, Newcastle-upon-Tyne

Primary Field Supervisor: Alison Waldram. Alison.waldram@phe.gov.uk

Academic links: Newcastle University, Northumbria University, GI HPRU

Key Health Protection challenges

- some of the highest rates of healthcare associated infections, sexually transmitted infections and mumps nationally
- large number of prisons
- large differences in population density and high deprivation

Recent fellow's projects

- Review of epidemiology and estimated burden of non-O157 STEC in England
- The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on gastrointestinal infection trends in England, February to July 2020
- Understanding the epidemiology of E. coli bloodstream infections in the North of England
- Investigation into a recurring cluster of MRSA colonisations in a special care baby unit, April 2016 to November 2019
- Evaluation of the EpiNorth3 surveillance system in North East England, January 2013 to December 2017

Additional information

Co-located and close working relationship with the Health Protection Team, allowing for early involvement of FS colleagues in outbreaks and incidents. Also co-located with the other UKHSA Centre teams at Newcastle Civic Centre.

The North East has a dedicated surveillance system, EpiNorth3, which has been running for many years and collates details on cases of infectious disease, testing methods, exposures, etc. This system has a wealth of information that many UKFETP projects have been based on.

North East and Yorkshire and Humber Field Service Team (Yorkshire and Humber)

Key topic areas

Field Service topic leads:

Data science and informatics, quality, governance, HIV and sexually-transmitted infections, healthcare associated infections and antimicrobial resistance, hepatitis and blood safety, influenza, global health

Research interests:

Vaccine preventable diseases, gastrointestinal infections, healthcare associated infections, global health

Location of office: Blenheim House, Leeds

Primary Field Supervisor: Gareth Hughes. Gareth.hughes@phe.gov.uk

Academic links: University of Sheffield, University of York, University of Leeds, Health Protection Research Unit in Modelling Methodology

Key Health Protection challenges

- large counties with some urban areas but significant rural areas with large farming communities
- area includes three international airports, two major seaports and a number of military bases

Recent fellow's projects

- Rapid evaluation of the effectiveness of public health information materials on 2019-nCoV provided to passengers arriving at UK airports from mainland China
- Understanding the increasing incidence of invasive pneumococcal disease and decreasing-IPD related mortality in the North East of England, 2006 to 2018
- Investigation of the risk factors for COVID-19 transmission using NHS Test and Trace data
- Assessing the impact of the Kaiser Permanente calculator on detection of neonatal sepsis
- Get Tested LeEDs: Estimating bloodborne virus prevalence and associated risk factors through routine opt-out emergency department testing

Additional information

Co-located with the Health Protection Team and the UKHSA Centre. Close working relationship with the health protection team staff, allowing for early involvement of FS colleagues in outbreaks. Office located in Leeds city centre. UKHSA Consultant in Public Health Infection also has desk space in the office.

North West Field Service Team

Key topic areas

Field Service topic leads:

Data Science, streptococcal and staphylococcal infections, gastrointestinal infections research

Research interests:

Gastrointestinal infections, emerging and zoonotic infections, antimicrobial resistance, vaccine preventable diseases, global health

Location of office: Cunard Building, Liverpool

Primary Field Supervisor: Valerie Decraene, Valerie.decraene@phe.gov.uk

Academic links: Local: University of Liverpool, University of Manchester, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Lancaster University
Via Health Protection Research units: Warwick University, Oxford University, University of East Anglia

Key Health Protection challenges

- some of the highest rates of TB, STIs (including hepatitis) in the country
- large outbreaks of Salmonella and measles in recent years
- densely populated urban areas and sparsely populated rural areas with high levels of agricultural activity
- ongoing major issue with carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales at a number of north west hospitals
- huge legacy of contaminated land resulting from the chemical industry in parts of Cheshire and Merseyside, and two nuclear reprocessing facilities within our area

Recent fellow's projects

- Investigation into two national nosocomial Burkholderia cepacia complex outbreaks, United Kingdom, 2021
- Excess health-facility mortality during the COVID-19 pandemic in The Gambia: an interrupted time-series analysis
- Risk of symptomatic COVID-19 due to aircraft transmission: a retrospective cohort study of contact-traced flights during England's containment phase
- Evaluation of Salmonella surveillance questionnaire response combined with SMS messaging in Greater Manchester, United Kingdom
- Risk factors for community-onset Escherichia coli bacteraemia in North West England: a case-control study
- Increased Risk for Invasive Group A Streptococcus Disease for Household Contacts of Scarlet Fever Cases, England, 2011 to 2016

Additional information

Co-located with Health Protection Team.

South East and London Field Service

Key topic areas

Vaccine preventable disease, GI, Hepatitis, Travel and Migrant Health, Influenza and other respiratory viruses, Group A Strep, TB

Location of office: Skipton House, Elephant and Castle, London

Primary Field Supervisor: Sooria Balasegaram. Sooria.Balasegaram@phe.gov.uk

Academic links: LSHTM, Imperial, UCL, HPRUs

Key Health Protection challenges

South East and London Field Service team is the busiest and largest FS team, covering an area comprising of almost a third of the population of England 16.5 million. Work is varied covering a metropolis, several cities and rural parts with extremes of deprivation and affluence including a highly mobile, multi-ethnic population with many prisons, care homes, hospitals, major UK airports and commercial sea ports.

Recent fellow's projects

- Cross site study of COVID-19 in older patients highlights importance of frailty services
- Non travel related Enteric fever in England
- Scarlet Fever in the 21st century: its epidemiological and clinical characteristics in a cross-sectional study of affected children in community outbreaks in London, 2018 to 2019.
- Evaluation of Covid vaccine effectiveness in Georgia

Publications:

1. Increasingly limited options for the treatment of enteric fever in travelers returning to England, 2014 to 2019: a cross-sectional analytical study.
2. Clinical frailty as a key characteristic of the patient population of the NHS Nightingale North West COVID-19.
3. Risk associations for intestinal parasites in symptomatic and asymptomatic schoolchildren in central Mozambique.
4. Monitoring epidemiological trends in back to school asthma among preschool and school-aged children using real-time syndromic surveillance in England, 2012 to 2016.
5. Genomic sequencing of a national emm66 group A streptococci (GAS) outbreak among people who inject drugs and the homeless community in England and Wales, January 2016 to May 2017.
6. An innovative approach to increase viral hepatitis diagnoses and linkage to care using opt-out testing and an integrated care pathway in a London Emergency Department.

Additional information

We are co-located with the South London Health Protection Team and CRCE's London and South East Environmental Hazards and Emergencies team. We support 7 local health protection units in London and SE and also can support joint projects with academia, Colindale, CRCE.

South West Field Service Team

Key topic areas

Field Service topic leads:

Tuberculosis, influenza and other respiratory viruses, streptococcal and staphylococcal infections, antimicrobial resistance and chemicals, radiation and environmental hazards

Research interests:

health protection research studies and evaluations. Specific examples of research topics include: bloodborne viruses, hospital acquired infections, respiratory infections, emergency preparedness and response, flooding, contact tracing, developing tools and methodologies for field epidemiology.

Location of office: 2 Rivergate, Temple Quay, Bristol

Primary Field Supervisor: Charles Beck. Charles.Beck@phe.gov.uk

Academic links: Local: University of Bristol, University of West of England We are part of the NIHR Health Protection Research Unit in Behavioural Science and Evaluation at the University of Bristol (and co-lead one of the workstreams) and the NIHR Health Protection Research Unit in Emergency Preparedness and Response

Key Health Protection challenges

- large area with rural and urban regions
- zoonosis are an important public health problem
- areas of deprivation with a high incidence of TB and sexually transmitted infections
- there are a number of prisons in the South West region

Recent fellow's projects

- The impact of COVID-19 public health measures on detection of respiratory syncytial virus in children in England, 2020 to 2021
- Public health investigation into a cluster of SARS-CoV-2 VUI-21JAN-01 with epidemiological links to an acute NHS Foundation Trust in England
- COVID-19 Child Mortality Surveillance in England: National Child Mortality Database (NCMD) data linkage with SARS-CoV-2 virology results
- First confirmed domestic transmission of *Brucella canis* between dogs in the UK: outbreak investigation and public health risk assessment

Additional information

We are co-located with members of the Field Service Central Team and the South West Health Protection Team. We work closely with the Bristol Public Health Laboratory, NHS organisations and local authorities across the South West region.

Thames Valley Health Protection Team (TVHPT) and Centre for Radiation, Chemical and Environmental Hazards (CRCE)

Key topic areas

Environmental Epidemiology team, CRCE – national and international projects exploring the effect of environmental exposures on health and developing national environmental public health surveillance eg lead exposure in children surveillance, health effects of water fluoridation, burden of disease of carbon monoxide poisoning, chemicals in private water supplies, biomonitoring studies, health registers.

TVHPT – COVID-19, Vaccine preventable diseases, hospital acquired infections, TB, influenza, invasive group A streptococcus, gastro-intestinal infections.

Location of office: Chilton, near Didcot, Oxfordshire

Primary Field Supervisors: Clare Humphreys clare.humphreys@phe.gov.uk (TVHPT);
Helen Crabbe helen.crabbe@phe.gov.uk (CRCE)

Academic links: University of Oxford and HPRU links with Imperial College, LSHTM, UCL, University of Leicester, Exeter University

Key Health Protection challenges

The Chilton site is the headquarters of CRCE and the national focal point for advice and guidance for environmental health including climate change, extreme events, toxicology, radiation and chemicals. Developing surveillance of such risks and the novel use of IT to provide access to data and intelligence is one of the key areas for environmental epidemiology. Thames Valley has a population of 2.1M and is part of UKHSA South East (8.9M people). Thames Valley is a mixture of rural and urban areas with varying degrees of deprivation making it a busy HPT team. This last year has been dominated by COVID-19 response including, contact tracing, outbreak management, surveillance and proactive work with stakeholders. We have in the past couple of years managed a variety of outbreaks including measles and invasive Group A Streptococcus outbreaks and TB and legionnaire clusters.

Recent fellow's projects

- Factors associated with delay in treatment initiation for tuberculosis, and impact on treatment outcomes and transmission: a cross-sectional study in the South East, UK
- Investigation of an outbreak of gastrointestinal illness following a golfing tournament at a Golf Club, Kent, April 2019
- Investigation of an outbreak of *Cryptosporidium parvum* in pupils and teachers of a school in Berkshire, April 2018
- Biomonitoring and environmental sampling in Georgia to establish sources of exposure of lead in children
- Developing a protocol for establishing a Health Register following a chemical explosion in Beirut, Lebanon
- Evaluation of the Barbados National Disease Registry for Non-Communicable Diseases

Additional information

Shared site: You will split your time between the Environmental Epidemiology team in CRCE and TVHPT, whilst also maintaining close links with London and South East Field Service. You will have access to outbreaks and other projects across the South East as well as national and international projects.

UKFETP Alumni



Frequently asked questions

General programme queries

Can I do the programme part-time?

Unfortunately, not at the moment. The programme is designed as a full time - year programme.

Do I need to be currently employed by UKHSA to apply for this position?

Anyone eligible to work in the UK can apply to the Programme. It is a fixed term contract for 2 years or an internal transfer/secondment.

Who is the UKFETP suitable for?

The UKFETP is suitable for those wishing to apply for SEO/AfC Band 7 and StR grades and want to develop their field epidemiology skills.

Is the salary/grade for UKFETP flexible?

Unfortunately not, we are bound by our budget. If you were successful, we would only be able to offer an SEO/AfC Band 7 salary or equivalent StR grade.

What is the average success rate for getting onto the programme?

There are usually between 70 and 150 applications each year resulting in a 5-10% success rate depending on the number of roles available (4–8 each year).

How is the course set up?

The information you require is in the Job Purpose/Summary in the advert as well as the Job Description under Main Training Objectives and Responsibilities.

How many overnight stays are expected in the programme?

All modules are scheduled to be face to face and residential. Details of modules and their length are available in the Graduating Criteria section of this prospectus. Modules are also rotated around the UK.

Eligibility queries

What are the eligibility criteria for applying for UKFETP?

Essential criteria are listed in the Person Specification in the advert. You must already have a Masters degree or PhD in a scientific discipline with a significant health (human or animal), public health, epidemiology or data analysis component OR a minimum of four years supervised experience in Public Health, Epidemiology or Health Protection at the time of application.

Is there a minimum requirement for work experience in order to apply?

Yes, we expect demonstrable experience of working within public health, health protection or epidemiology for at least 18 months by the date of application. Time spent in education including PhD studies does not qualify.

I am completing my Master's this year, am I eligible to apply?

You must have achieved your Master's degree at the point of application to be eligible to apply. If you have a PhD, it doesn't matter that your Master's is still ongoing. Otherwise, we would encourage you to consider applying next year.

If my Master's is not in public health what other Master's programme would be acceptable?

Applications are considered on an individual basis. As a guide other Master's with a public health or epidemiology content will be considered.

Can I apply to UKFETP as an infectious disease's registrar?

As long as you meet the additional criteria in the person specification in the advert, you should be fine to apply as an StR as long as you have deanery support.

Is it essential to have both a Master's and have passed parts A and B of the Faculty of Public Health examinations?

If you are a registrar, you need to have both a Master's and have passed part A and B of the FPH examinations. If you are not, you need only have a Masters.

Eligibility for non-UK citizens queries

Is the programme open to non-UK citizens?

The UKFETP is open to anyone who is eligible to work in the UK.

I require Tier 2 sponsorship, can UKFETP offer this?

No, regrettably, the UKFETP is not able to offer this.

UK Health Security Agency are a registered sponsor and are able to sponsor applicants towards Tier 2 working visas.

There are certain conditions that must be met to enable UK Health Security Agency to sponsor an applicant and this is dependent on the outcome of an interview following assessment. Each request towards sponsorship will be treated on an individual basis.

Further information regarding the eligibility of candidates to work in the UK can be found in the [Civil Service Nationality rules](#).

I would have the right to work in the UK at the time of applying. Would it be possible to obtain a longer full-time visa once in the programme?

Please refer to the nationality rules available here for more information regarding eligibility.

Application queries

How could I improve my chances of a successful application?

We advise all applicants to demonstrate how they match the essential and desirable criteria of the post as detailed in the Person Specification. Providing specific examples of experience is important and outlining what you hope to gain/enthusiasm for Field Epidemiology is also key.

Who do I use as references in my application?

Usually it is your last three employers. However, you can give whomever you feel would be appropriate, although one must be your last employer.

Career development queries

How can I develop my skills to enable me to apply to the programme in the future?

If you read the Prospectus, Job Description and Person Specification you will get a good sense of what the role of the field epidemiologist is. It is a role which includes rapid response – to outbreak investigations or major incidents, and signals from surveillance systems. The post at present mainly deals with health protection topics. You could learn more from talking with your local Health Protection and Field Epidemiology team.

Are there any training schemes which would support me through a postgraduate qualification in Public Health/Epidemiology

Higher Specialist training in Public Health (check the [Faculty of Public Health website](#) for more information) is the only training scheme that would incorporate a Master's degree to our knowledge.

How do I gain more experience in epidemiology?

In order to gain experience in epidemiology, look out for jobs in UKHSA or the UK Health Security Agency or in academia. You could set up alerts for jobs in NHS Jobs using terms such as “information officer”, “epidemiological scientist”, or “epidemiology”.

About the UK Health Security Agency

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. We provide intellectual, scientific and operational leadership at national and local level, as well as on the global stage, to make the nation health secure.

[UKHSA](#) is an executive agency, sponsored by the [Department of Health and Social Care](#).

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-health-security-agency

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UK Health Security Agency supports the Sustainable Development Goals

