

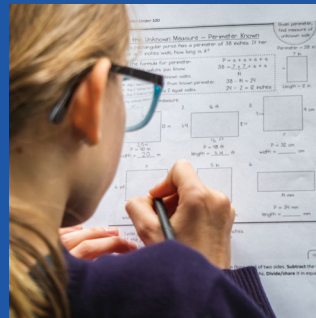


UK Health
Security
Agency

UKFETP

Field Epidemiology
Training Programme

UK Field Epidemiology Training Programme Prospectus 2023



An introduction to the two-year programme for prospective applicants

Welcome to the UK Field Epidemiology Training Programme

The UK Field Epidemiology Training Programme (UKFETP) is a full-time two-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 supervised learning activities, but at least ten percent of the time will be dedicated to formally taught training courses. The programme currently covers England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

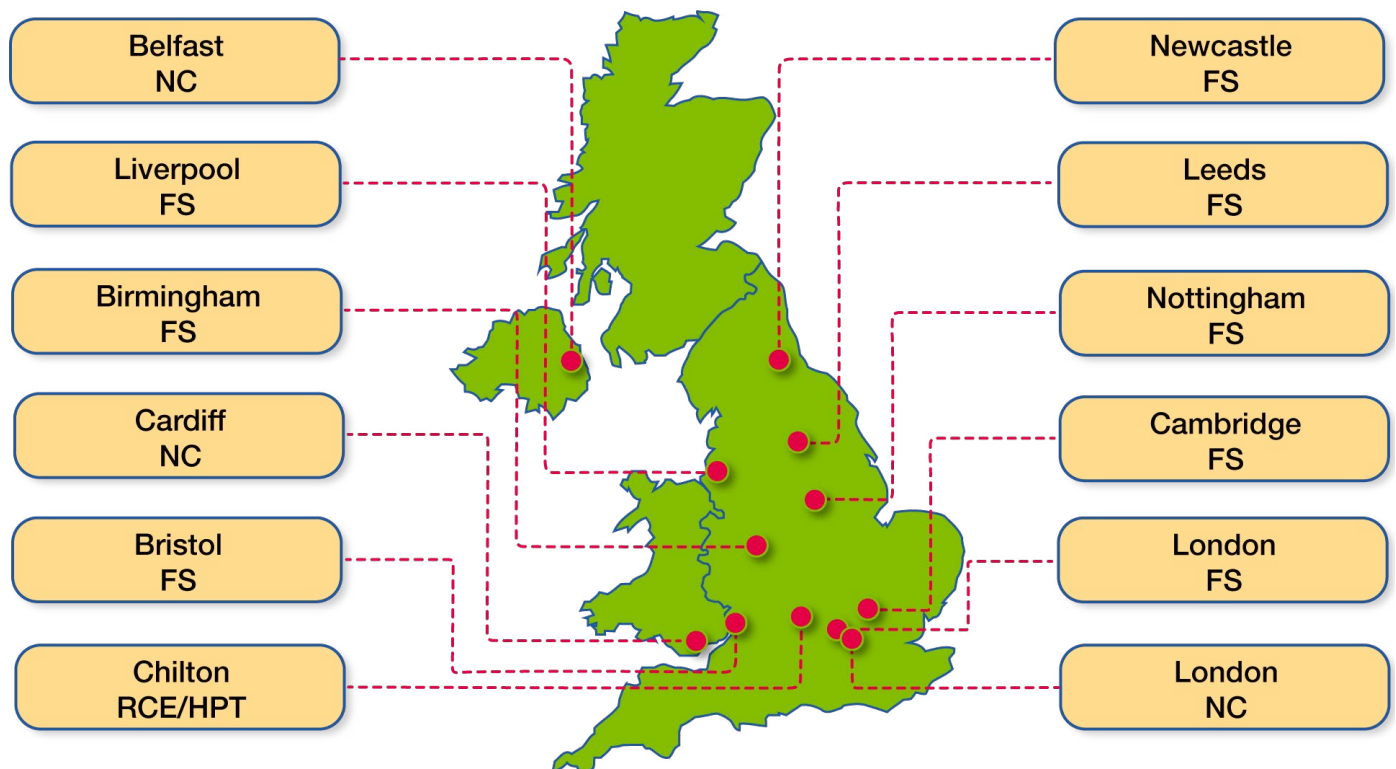


Conferences

Courses





Training sites

There are currently 12 sites which include national centres (NC) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Many sites are part of the UKHSA Field Service (FS); a nationally coordinated and managed service with specialist field epidemiology teams spread across the regions of England. All sites work closely with local Health Protection Teams (HPT) but the Chilton site offers the opportunity to embed within the HPT in a site which is split with the national lead epidemiology team for chemical and radiation hazards.

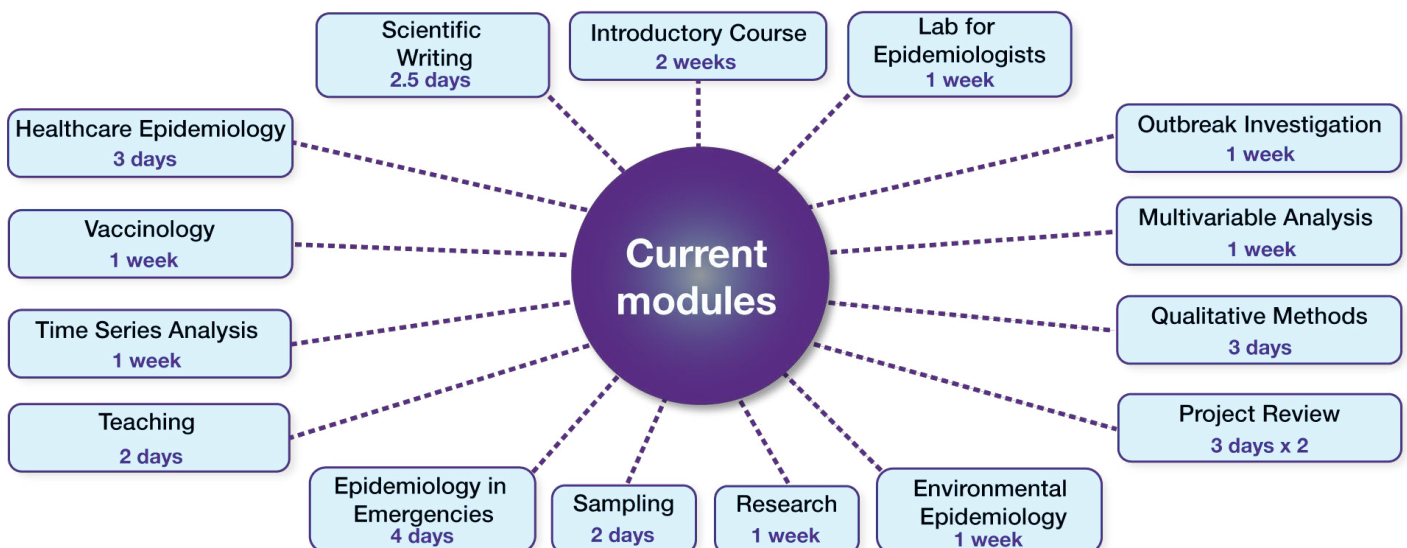


Programme goals & graduation criteria

UKFETP goals







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

Modules



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

Recruitment timetable

February:

Recruitment opens

April/May:

Face to face interviews

September:

Start of fellowship



Where have 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



We welcome applications from anyone who meets the eligibility criteria, regardless of their current employer or role.

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 four 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?

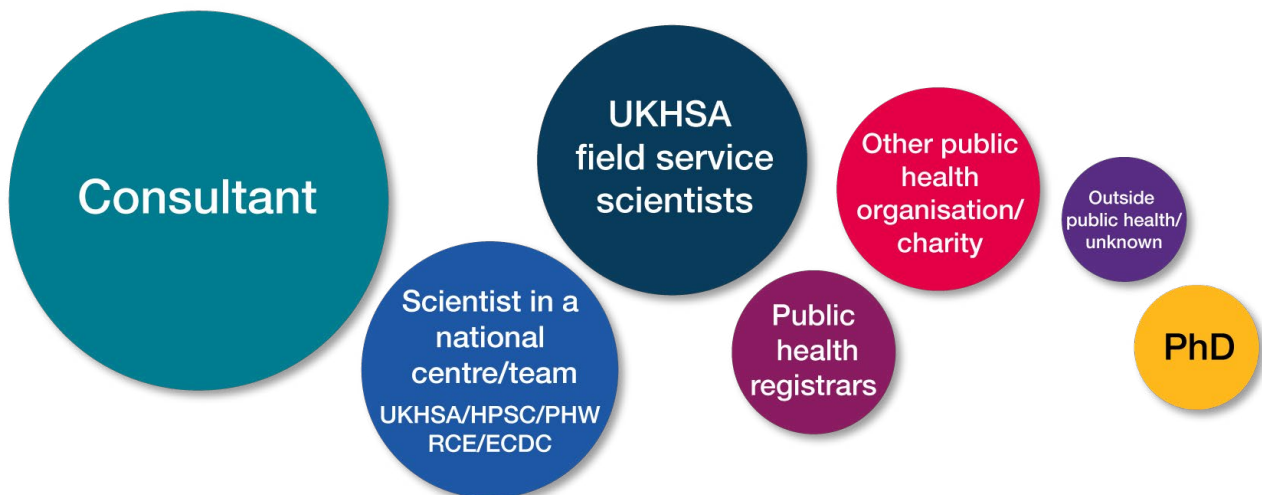
The two-year fellowship will enable development, focusing on your individual training needs through on-the-job supervision. You will experience significant personal and professional growth and development, but the programme does not offer automatic career progression at the end of the fellowship. By 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 fellows ended up?

Includes all fellows that have completed the programme, from 2011 onwards. All are current job roles in 2022.



From 2011 to the end of 2022:

59 Graduated fellows
15 Fellows in the programme

Fellows' achievements

129 Peer-reviewed papers published
135 Oral presentations at national and international scientific conferences
134 Poster presentations at national and international scientific conferences
51 International assignments

Graduating cohort (C20) highlights

Outbreaks

- Multi-country collaboration in the investigation of an outbreak of *Salmonella* braenderup, 2021
- Multiple national outbreaks of *Burkholderia cepacia* complex
- Outbreak investigation and risk assessment on reptile associated salmonellosis
- An investigation of increased incidence of *Staphylococcus capitis* in neonatal units in England, 2019-2021: A case-control study
- *Salmonella infantis* t5.1518 linked to contaminated pork scratchings
- National Hepatitis A outbreak linked to medjool dates
- *Brucella canis* outbreak in the South West of England, June 2020
- National incident of paediatric hepatitis of unknown aetiology

Surveillance

- Evaluation of SARS-CoV-2 Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) Surveillance in Northern Ireland
- COVID-19 Child Mortality Surveillance in England: the establishment of a prospective surveillance system
- Pilot community COVID-19 post mortem surveillance system using funeral directors
- Psittacosis Surveillance for England and Wales



Research

- Media impact on COVID-19 related healthcare utilisation
- Carbapenemase-producing Enterobacterales point prevalence survey in ICUs
- The epidemiology of respiratory syncytial virus in children under five years during the COVID-19 pandemic measured by laboratory, clinical and syndromic surveillance in England: a retrospective observational study including the 2020/21 winter season
- Seroprevalence of SARS-CoV-2 amongst Blood Donors in England
- Investigation of behavioural risk factors associated with self-reported Hepatitis C infection among people who experience homelessness and inject drugs (PWID) in Northern Ireland: comparison between 2017 and 2021

Teaching

- Epicell Outbreak Investigation Learning Needs Assessment
- Evaluation of R training for Africa CDC
- Developing a health register protocol, Environmental epidemiology module
- Surveillance of infectious diseases, Biomedical Science BSc and MSc students, University of the West of England



International missions

- COVID-19 Deployment - Papua New Guinea
- Health Needs Assessment for Ukrainian Refugees in Slovakia
- Excess mortality due to COVID-19 in the Gambia
- Knowledge, perception and factors associated with COVID-19 vaccination among healthcare workers in Azerbaijan
- COVID-19 Vaccine Effectiveness among healthcare workers in Azerbaijan
- Introduction to Epidemiology Course - Azerbaijan Medical University
- Evaluation of R training for Africa CDC

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. In 2021 a specialty group for statistics, data science and genomics was added, providing expert statistical advice for fellows and access to data science and genomics expertise.

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 (MPH) course at Cardiff University.

Key Health Protection challenges

- Integrated surveillance of acute respiratory infections
- Restarting and reforming surveillance using the lessons from COVID-19, including data linkage for infection outcomes, 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

- Outbreak of hepatitis of unknown aetiology (part of national investigation)
- Hospital ward risk factors for COVID-19 outbreaks
- Long-term sequelae of *E. coli* O157 infection
- Implementing sentinel surveillance for acute respiratory infections

Additional information

CDSC Wales has been an EPIET training site since 1996, hosting eight EU-track and two MS-track fellows. CDSC are 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 have 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.

East of England Field Service Team / Health Protection Team

Key topic areas

HCAI & AMR, TB, Environmental, Hepatitis, Sexual Health

Location of office: Forvie Site, Institute of Public Health (Cambridge University), Addenbrookes hospital site, Cambridge (FS)

Primary Field Supervisors: Ellen Heinsbroek: ellen.heinsbroek@ukhsa.gov.uk
Queries: EFEU@phe.gov.uk

Academic links: Cambridge University

Key Health Protection challenges

East of England has a population of approximately 6.4 million and covers a large geographical area encompassing the counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire. The population comprises both urban and rural populations and some of the most deprived and some of the most affluent areas of the country.

Recent challenges:

- Ongoing Group A Streptococcus clusters and outbreaks in different local authorities
- TB outbreaks in various settings including a supermarket distribution setting and a homeless hostel. Screening events are supported by the Health Protection Team and Field Service Team
- A large number of Avian Influenza outbreaks in the region in 2022, mainly linked to poultry farming

Recent projects conducted by the team

- Development of an extensive surveillance programme together with the Health Protection Team
- Development of a Power BI dashboard to detect and investigate clusters of Group A Streptococcus
- Investigation of an STEC O103 outbreak hypothesized to be linked to a producer in East of England with a case-control study using market panel control selection
- Retrospective cohort study of a hospital-acquired outbreak of Mycobacterium abscessus linked to the hospital's water system
- Investigation of multiple outbreaks of MRSA in a hospital identified by whole genome sequencing
- Cross-sectional survey to determine social risk factors for SARS-CoV-2 acquisition in University students: research paper published in Epidemiology and Infection (Nov 2022)

Additional information

FS team is co-located with the Institute of Public Health (Cambridge University) on the Addenbrookes Hospital Site which also includes a UKHSA regional laboratory. Although not co-located, the East of England Health Protection Team and FS team work closely together, with several joint weekly and monthly meetings and projects set up between them. There are plans for part of the Health Protection Team to be co-located at the FS team site in the next year.

The FS team has extensive experience in the rapid set up of Power BI dashboards to support outbreak and cluster investigations with interactive visualisations. There is also good working knowledge of SQL, STATA and R within the team.

Midlands Field Service Team (Nottingham and Birmingham)

Location of office: Seaton House, City Link, Nottingham & 23 Stephenson Street, Birmingham

Primary Field Supervisors: Richard Puleston (Nottingham): richard.puleston@ukhsa.gov.uk & Helen Bagnall (Birmingham): helen.bagnall@ukhsa.gov.uk

Academic links: 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 Birmingham team is also 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 Public Health Agency Northern Ireland is a National Centre and therefore is 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 Supervisor: 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 Public Health Agency Northern Ireland 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@ukhsa.gov.uk,
Victoria Hall: victoria.hall@ukhsa.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, Gastrointestinal 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:

- Inequalities associated with emergence of Delta SARS-CoV-2 variant of concern (B.1.617.2) in England
- 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

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 incident of paediatric hepatitis of unknown aetiology
- National Hepatitis A Outbreak in England and Wales Linked to medjool dates

Teaching:

- UKHSA COVID-19 epicell outbreak investigation learning needs assessment and teaching
- Principles of surveillance – UKHSA/NIS Introduction course

Additional information

- Co-located with North West London Health Protection Team
- Involvement in national incidents e.g. Diphtheria 2022, Monkeypox 2022 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 & Yorkshire and Humber Field Service Team (North East)

Key topic areas

Field Service topic leads:

Hepatitis & Blood Safety, HCAI & AMR, Surveillance, Gastrointestinal Infections, Research & Development & Global Health.

Research interests:

Blood-borne viruses, Gastrointestinal infections, HCAI & AMR.

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

Primary Field Supervisor: Petra Manley: petra.manley@ukhsa.gov.uk

Academic links: Newcastle University, Teeside University, Gastrointestinal Infections Health Protection Research Unit

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

- The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on gastrointestinal infection trends in England, February to July 2020
- Falkland Islands COVID-19 epidemiological investigation
- 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. UKHSA Consultant in Public Health Infection based in the office. 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 FETP projects have been based on.

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

Key topic areas

Field Service topic leads:

Data science & informatics and quality, governance, HIV and sexually-transmitted infections, healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial resistance.

Research interests:

Vaccine preventable diseases, gastrointestinal infections, healthcare associated infections, data science, statistical modelling.

Location of office: Blenheim House, Leeds

Primary Field Supervisor: Gareth Hughes: gareth.hughes@ukhsa.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. 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@ukhsa.gov.uk

Academic links: University of Liverpool, University of Manchester, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Lancaster University, Liverpool John Moore 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
- High levels of deprivation and health inequalities
- 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
- Large number of COMA sites and huge legacy of contaminated land resulting from the chemical industry, particularly in parts of Cheshire and Merseyside, and two nuclear reprocessing facilities within our area within the region

Recent fellow's projects

- Learning Needs Assessment for the UK Overseas Territories Team, Global Public Health
- Investigation into two national nosocomial *Burkholderia cepacia* complex outbreaks, United Kingdom, 2021
- 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 Cheshire and Merseyside 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@ukhsa.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 seaports.

Recent fellow's projects

- Estimating STEC clearance times in young children and risk of transmission in childcare settings
- Outbreak of multidrug-resistant monophasic Salmonella Typhimurium associated with chocolate products - analytical, case control study
- Diphtheria seroprevalence study
- A Guide for Evaluation of Surveillance Outputs by the Field Service
- Cases of COVID-19 presenting to St Thomas' Hospital Emergency Department, London

Publications:

1. Epidemiology of Early Monkeypox Virus Transmission in Sexual Networks of Gay and Bisexual Men, England, 2022
2. Increasingly limited options for the treatment of enteric fever in travelers returning to England, 2014 to 2019: a cross-sectional analytical study
3. Clinical frailty as a key characteristic of the patient population of the NHS Nightingale North West COVID-19
4. British infection association guidelines for the diagnosis and management of enteric fever in England
5. Levels and genotypes of Salmonella and levels of Escherichia coli in frozen ready-to-cook chicken and turkey products in England tested in 2020 in relation to an outbreak of S. Enteritidis

Additional information

We are co-located with the London Health Protection Teams. We support 7 local health protection units in London and SE and also are involved in joint projects with academia, Colindale, RCE.

South West Field Service Team

Key topic areas

Field Service topic leads:

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

Research interests:

Health protection research studies and evaluations. Specific examples of research topics include: blood-borne 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@ukhsa.gov.uk; Matt Edmunds: matt.edmunds@ukhsa.gov.uk

Academic links: 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
- Exposures associated with tuberculosis presentation and healthcare delays in South West England, 2015-2020

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. We co-lead the infectious disease epidemiology and control unit across the Master of Public Health and Epidemiology degree programmes at the University of Bristol.

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 e.g. 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 Supervisor: Clare Humphreys: clare.humphreys@ukhsa.gov.uk (TVHPT);
Helen Crabbe: helen.crabbe@ukhsa.gov.uk (RCE)

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 RCE 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. Alongside Covid-19, the past year has seen a number of large incidents including acute hepatitis of unknown aetiology, monkey pox clade IIb outbreak, and avian influenza in captive and wild birds.

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
- Identifying housing characteristics and other risk factors for the transmission of Covid-19

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.

59 graduated fellows



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, two-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 two 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 those currently on StR grades and who 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 150 – 250 applications annually, resulting in a success rate of 4-5% depending on the number of roles available 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 on page 3 of this prospectus. Modules are also rotated around the UK. Attendance at modules is mandatory. Fellows are also expected to attend the ESCAIDE Conference each year which is held in a European city and therefore requires overseas travel.

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 completed a Master's 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.

Frequently asked questions

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 must have passed parts A and B of the FPH examinations as well as having completed a relevant Master's.

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.

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](#) 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.

Frequently asked questions

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, Public Health Wales or the Public Health Agency of Northern Ireland. Relevant experience may also be gained in academia or public health organisations. You could also set up alerts for jobs in NHS Jobs and Health Jobs UK 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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