

Liverpool Clinical PhD Programme

for Health Priorities in the Global South

Role: Clinical PhD Fellowship (4 posts available)

Programme: Liverpool Clinical PhD Programme for Health Priorities in the Global South

Employer: University of Liverpool or Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. Appointments are made directly to either institute depending on location of Primary Supervisor.

Funder: Wellcome Trust (PhDs for Health Professionals)

Location: Liverpool and/or remote, with considerable time spent in an LMIC

Department: Determined by primary supervisor

Salary: £39,355-£73,992

Salaries are subject to Wellcome's 'principle of equivalence'.

For medical applicants, current registrar salary will be matched.

For nursing/midwifery applicants and other allied health professionals, current salary will be matched.

For non-medical applicants, current salary and benefits will be taken into consideration and matched as closely as possible to an equivalent spine point on the non-clinical pay scale.

Working Hours: Full time (with possibility of less than full time upon agreement with Programme Director and Funder)

Tenure: 3 years

Programme webpage: For more general information on the PhD Programme: [Liverpool Centre for Global Health Research - Institute of Infection, Veterinary and Ecological Sciences - University of Liverpool](#)

Contact: Elly Wallis, Research Programme Coordinator LCGHRadmin@liverpool.ac.uk



Role overview

The clinical PhD fellowships are designed for clinical researchers (i.e. doctors, midwives, nurses, public health, other allied health professionals and veterinarians) across multiple scientific disciplines, who intend to become clinical academics. The scheme is specifically focused on Health Priorities in the Global South and individuals who wish to pursue an academic career in this field. Projects should focus on human health relevant to the global south. Veterinary projects must have a strong One Health focus.

The scheme is intended for clinicians in the early part of their academic career and the salaries available reflect this. Veterinary applicants will be encouraged to enrol with a specialist college. The posts are full time research, although a portion of time may be spent on clinical activities if needed for regulatory or other justifiable reasons. It is expected that the PhD project will take place in a Low- and Middle-Income Country setting, with the fellow resident at the study site for a significant proportion of time. If personal circumstances prevent long term residence overseas, shorter periods of time spent overseas can be considered if a compelling case can be made to show how academic and training objectives can be met.

At the end of the fellowship the successful candidates will possess a PhD awarded by either University of Liverpool or Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and relevant training and skills to pursue academic independence through post-doctoral fellowship applications or other equivalent funding.

Eligibility

Applicants must have a UK clinical licence to practice. Due to terms set out by the ultimate funder, we cannot accept applications from candidates not licensed to practice in the UK. Registration with the relevant UK college or council must be evidenced at the point of application. Applicants must not already be registered as a PhD student.

All applicants must submit a 500-word concept note outlining a well-conceived project and will be expected to demonstrate strong academic potential and a clear interest in health problems in the Global South as well as a desire to pursue these in their future career. Applicants must also demonstrate a clear Liverpool link and have identified suitable supervisor(s) at either UoL or LSTM, as well as at an overseas institute. A list of suggested primary supervisors is provided on the website, but applicants are free to approach any suitable supervisors at either institution. Shortlisting will assess candidates on academic potential, demonstrable interest in health problems of the Global South, stage of training and skills development, suitability and novelty of the proposed topic of the PhD and arrangements for supervision.



Application process

First stage application

Candidates will initially apply via a Google Forms application on the LCGHR website (Google account required). The application must identify your proposed supervisors, and the overseas institute where you will be based. The application will request that you upload a 500-word concept note*, a CV, a cover letter, and letters of support from your Primary Supervisor in Liverpool as well as your in-country supervisor (if different). All documents must be included with your application to be considered for shortlisting.

*Project titles, supervisor names and references are not included in the word count of the concept note, and you may include one figure.

Letters of support should be no more than 1 page and should include details of how your supervisors plan to support you and what resources and infrastructure will be available to ensure you have the correct environment to thrive.

Your cover letter should be no more than 2 pages and must address how you meet the attributes listed in the Person Specification on Pages 9 & 10, and include a short statement on why you feel you are a good fit for the fellowship.

This application will also confidentially capture EDI data as requested by Wellcome Trust which will only be visible to the Research Programme Coordinator; specifically; the demographic information of (1) fellows who apply to the PhD Programme, and (2) those who are successful, including: university attended for undergraduate degree, gender, age, race and ethnicity, socio-economic status, and health professional specialty. You can read Wellcome's [Diversity, equity and Inclusion strategy](#) here.

Second stage application

If successfully shortlisted, candidates are then invited to develop their application more fully with the support of their supervisors over the next ten weeks, typically using the standard Wellcome fellowship application template. Candidates will also need to cost up their £110k research budget with the help of the LCGHR Research Programme Coordinator. Candidates should expect to submit their proposals four weeks before interview for scoring. Proposal scores and interview scores will be combined to give a mean score which will determine candidate selection. Feedback is not automatically given to applicants who do not progress past first stage application but may be given on request.

Proposed Timeline (actual dates may vary)

- First-stage applications open: w/c 1st September 2025
- 11 weeks to develop 500-word concept note and cue up Liverpool and in-country supervisors*
- Deadline for first-stage applications: 14th November 2025
- Shortlisted applicants notified by: 28th November 2025



11 weeks to develop project into full proposal and budget with help of LCGHR team and Supervisor(s)

- Deadline for submitting full proposal & budget: 16th February 2026

4-week interlude for panel review

- Interviews: w/c 16th March 2026
- Successful candidates notified no more than 2 weeks after interview
- Fellowships commence from Sept 2026 for the 26/27 academic year.

Medical entry point

Medical graduates must have General Medical Council registration and have passed the relevant specialty exam, e.g. MRCP, MRCS, MRCOphth/FRCOphth Part 1, MRCPsych, MRCOG Part 1, MRCPCH, FRCA Part 1. GPs are advised to contact the office to clarify their eligibility. It is anticipated that most applicants will have already commenced their specialist training, but this is not essential.

Applicants should have at least two years post-graduate experience and must not already be on the GP or Specialist register. The most appropriate stage of clinical training for UK applicants to enter the programme is between the end of ST3 (or completion of the third year of an academic clinical fellowship) and the end of ST5.

The earliest stage of clinical training acceptable for entry to the programme is completion of ST1 (or the first year of an ACF). The latest stage of clinical training acceptable for the programme will be 6-months before the projected award of a Certificate of Completion of Training. Medical appointments will be made according to the University's standard clinical pay scale.

General practitioners who have recently (usually within two years) completed training can be considered, but would be subject to a salary cap.

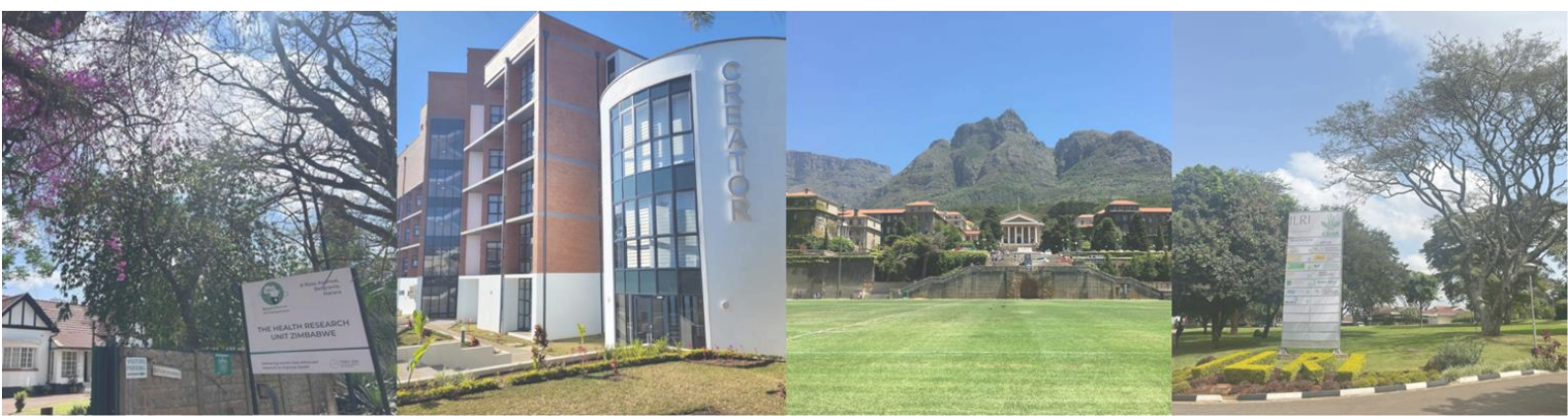
Nursing/midwifery/health professionals entry point

Midwives and Nurses must have current registration with the UK Nursing and Midwifery Council, and a minimum of 2 years full time post-registration experience (or equivalent part-time) is desirable. A relevant Master's degree would be advantageous. However, candidates with a first class or upper second-class honours degree will be considered if they can demonstrate research experience.

Other allied health professionals and clinical professionals must hold their relevant professional licence and will be assessed on criteria similar to midwives and nurses.

Veterinary entry point

Veterinary graduates must be registered with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. Ideally applicants should have at least 2 years post graduate (clinical, research or other relevant) experience. However, individuals about to graduate will be considered if they can demonstrate skills and experience beyond their undergraduate veterinary degree e.g. prior work in a LMIC setting, additional degree qualifications. Veterinary graduates are advised to contact the office to clarify their eligibility.



It would be advantageous to have demonstrated some undergraduate (e.g. through intercalation, vacation research projects or being involved in research publication) or post graduate research experience. Veterinary appointments will be made according to standard (non-clinical) University pay scales.

Postgraduate research study

On commencing a 3-year post; fellows will begin a PhD study in their chosen clinical and academic specialisation, addressing a research question of relevance to health needs in the Global South. It is expected that the successful candidates will undertake training appropriate to the post, with a focus on this activity in low- or middle-income country (LMIC) settings. Candidates will be appointed as staff first, and will then register their PhD at either University of Liverpool or Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine.

Overseas posting

It is a requirement of the programme that part of this research is conducted overseas, in an appropriate LMIC. Candidates are encouraged to reside in the research site, with appropriate overseas allowances paid to support this. However extended periods of residence overseas may be unsuitable for some individuals and fellowships with shorter periods of time spent overseas can be considered. Individual cases should be discussed early to see if they would fulfil training requirements.

The Liverpool Clinical PhD Programme has strong links with many potential overseas research sites, in particular the Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Research Programme (MLW) in Malawi (<https://www.mlw.mw/>)

Further information

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview. Between shortlisting and interview it is expected that candidates would develop their scientific proposals and illustrative budgets along with their supervisor(s) which will be submitted for scoring prior to interview. At interview, the candidate will be expected to present and defend a coherent, structured project application.

There will be skills development opportunities and successful candidates will gain core competencies in research skills such as project management, grant management and writing for publication. Upon successful completion of a fellowship, support for applications can be provided through the Liverpool Centre for Global Health Research.

Applicants will be shortlisted, appraised and interviewed by a panel of senior academics from both University of Liverpool and Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. Depending on the institution in which their primary supervisor is based, successful applicants will either be appointed to The University of Liverpool or Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine from the outset of their fellowship.



Applications that do not include a concept note will be immediately disqualified. Recruitment processes for these posts are carried out by Liverpool Centre for Global Health Research and we will endeavour to adhere to the key dates advertised on the webpage. We will aim to notify all applicants of the outcome of their application, but if you have heard nothing by the end of December 2025, you can consider your application unsuccessful.

Right to work

We have a legal responsibility to ensure that you have the right to work in the UK before you can start working for either organisation. If you do not have the right to work in the UK already, any offer of employment we make to you will be conditional upon you gaining it. The UK Visas and Immigration service have an interactive tool allowing you to immediately see if vacancies are eligible for a Skilled Worker visa. You will need to know the SOC code for the role, our most used SOC codes can be found [here](#), if none of these apply to this role, there are more codes on the eligibility checker. The skilled worker eligibility checker can be found on GOV.UK.

DBS

As the work involves working with young people and / or vulnerable adults, the successful candidate will be asked to make an enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service check.

Pathogens

You may be required to handle pathogens or potentially infected specimens of unfixed human/animal tissue (including blood), although appropriate measures will be in place to control the risk. You may be offered appropriate immunisations and/or records of your work with infectious material/infectious micro-organisms may be kept. You will be advised in your offer letter to contact the occupational Health Department to check on your vaccination status

Exposure to Animals

As an applicant for a post which may involve work in animal houses and/or handling animals, you should be aware that:

- There is a possibility that you may develop an allergy to the animals you are in contact with. The risk is substantially reduced if correct working practices are used and protective clothing is worn.
- Milder cases may be controlled by the use of protective clothing or medication and some people who are affected are able to continue working with animals.

The appointee will be required to complete a health screening questionnaire and clearance from Occupational Health must be received before exposure.

In addition to the above, all LSTM and UoL staff are required to:

- Adhere to all policies and procedures, completing all obligatory training and induction modules, including Equality & Diversity and Health & Safety.



- Respect confidentiality: all confidential information should be kept in confidence and not released to unauthorised persons.
- Participate in the Professional Development Conversation/Review scheme and take a proactive approach to own professional development.
- Demonstrate customer service excellence in dealing with all stakeholders.
- Embody and uphold the institutional Vision and Values.

About Liverpool Centre for Global Health Research (LCGHR)

The Liverpool Centre for Global Health Research (LCGHR) supports early career clinical researchers to develop and undertake first-class global health research in low- and middle-income countries. The team at the Centre, comprised of LSTM and UoL staff, provide operational and technical support to help fellows complete their PhD projects overseas, such as budgeting, work plan writing, applying for ethics, procurement, logistics & shipping. The Centre is located in Block E of the Waterhouse Buildings at the University of Liverpool.

LCGHR has supported Wellcome Trust funded clinical PhD Programme fellows since 2008. Funding was again renewed for a new programme which started in 2022.

The Centre has strong links with many potential overseas research sites, including the Malawi-Liverpool Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Programme (MLW) in Malawi where many fellows end up doing their overseas projects. MLW was established more than 30 years ago as a unique collaboration between the University of Malawi College of Medicine, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, the University of Liverpool, and the Wellcome Trust, to focus on developing research with direct impact on priority health issues in the region.

About University of Liverpool

Established in 1881, we are an internationally renowned Russell Group university recognised for our high-quality teaching and research. We are consistently ranked as one of the best universities both nationally and globally, and the majority of our research is rated world leading or internationally excellent. Find out more [here](#).

When you work at the University of Liverpool you are more than just your job role. You are a crucial part of our mission to improve lives on a local, national and international scale.

The University of Liverpool is committed to being an inclusive employer. We welcome applications from everyone regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, faith or disability.



About Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine

Founded in 1898 and the oldest of its kind in the world, the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM) is an internationally recognised centre of excellence for teaching and research in tropical diseases. Through the creation of effective links with governments, NGOs, private organisations and global institutions and by responding to the health needs of communities, LSTM aims to promote improved health, particularly for people of the less developed/resource poorest countries in the tropics and sub-tropics.

Look at some of the great work we have achieved over the past year by viewing our annual report: <https://www.lstmed.ac.uk/about/publications/lstm-annual-report-2020-2021>

LSTM seek to attract and recruit people who reflect the diversity across our communities, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, nationality, faith or belief, social background, age and disability.



Person Specification

Essential Criteria		Desirable Criteria	Method of assessment
Experience			
1.1	Medical graduates: UK license to practice (GMC) Clinical experience equivalent to at least ST1 level	At least two years post-graduate experience and not already on the GP or Specialist register Insight into or engagement with clinical/public health practice overseas	Written application
1.2	Veterinary graduates: Registration with RCVS	Minimum 2 years post graduate experience Insight into or engagement with clinical/public health practice overseas	Written application
1.3	Midwifery graduates: Registration with the UK Nursing and Midwifery Council Minimum of 2 years full time post-registration experience	Insight into or engagement with clinical/public health practice overseas	Written application
1.4	Nurses: Registration with the UK Nursing and Midwifery Council Minimum of 2 years full time post-registration experience	Insight into or engagement with clinical/public health practice overseas	Written application
1.5	All other clinical practitioners, including AHPs Registration with the appropriate UK Council Minimum of 2 years full time post-registration experience	Insight into or engagement with clinical/public health practice overseas	Written application
Education, Qualifications and Training			
2.1	All applicants: 1 or 2:1 Undergraduate degree OR Masters level qualification at merit or above MBChB (or equivalent) with MRCP (UK) (or equivalent level membership/fellowship of another medical UK Royal College) BVSc (or equivalent) & RCVS Registration BSc Midwifery/Nursing BSc in Allied Health programme	Veterinary graduates: Master's degree or RCVS certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice Medical graduates: Completion of Academic Foundation Programme, clinical fellow or equivalent NMAHP graduates: Relevant Masters Degree	Written application

Skills, General and Special Knowledge			
3.1	Demonstration of understanding and commitment to clinical academic career pathway	A high degree of motivation towards a clinical academic career with evidence of opportunities taken to gain experience and insight	Written application/ Interview
3.2	Potential to develop as a clinical researcher	Prizes or distinctions	Written application/ Interview
3.3	Knowledge of global health challenges in the Global South	Contributions to policy or changes to clinical care etc that demonstrate individual thinking	Written application/ Interview
3.4	Ability to demonstrate clear medium- and long-term career goals	Evidence of research activity, including presentations and publications commensurate with stage of career	Written application/ Interview
3.5	Good presentation skills		Written application/ Interview
3.6	Good IT skills		Written application/ Interview
3.7	Evidence of team working skills		Written application/ Interview
Personal Attributes and Circumstances			
4.1	Evidence of leadership potential	Evidence of excellent oral and written communication skills in research	Written application/ Interview
4.2	Ability to work with staff at all levels	Demonstration of a high level of skill in problem solving and decision making	Written application/ Interview
4.3	Demonstrated support from a Liverpool-associated supervisor		Written application
4.4	Demonstrated support from an overseas partner-associated supervisor		Written application

Photo credits: Sarah Farrell, Keli Gerken, Mimi Malhotra, Thomas Hampton, Jack Milln