



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

## CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in Epidemiology, Faculty of Environment



**Salary: Grade 7 (£33,797 – £40,322 p.a.)** Due to external funding restrictions, appointments will not be made above £33,797 p.a.

**Reference: ENVFS1002**

**Closing date: 28 November 2019**

**Fixed-term for 21 months, from January 2020**

**We will consider job share / flexible working arrangements**

# Research Fellow in Epidemiology

## School of Food Science and Nutrition, Faculty of Environment

**Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have an established background in genetics and epidemiology, with an interest in the developmental origins of health and disease (DOHaD)? Do you want to further your career on a multidisciplinary study at one of the UK's leading research-intensive universities?**

The project is funded by Wellcome Trust and aims to identify early maternal predictors of infant birth weight and adult cardiometabolic risk in South Asians and white Europeans.

You will join a diverse team of researchers across nutrition, genetic statistics, and epidemiology to develop and apply novel methodologies to (i) identify and evaluate maternal metabolites that predict birth weight in white European and South Asian newborn and (ii) test the modifying effect of diet on the association between metabolites and birth weight.

You will have a PhD in Nutrition (epidemiology), Genetics, or a closely allied discipline, alongside a strong background in genetics or metabolomics. You will also have knowledge of health sciences, with hands on experience analysing large omics' data sets (i.e., 'big data') and experience working with R and/or PLINK. In addition, you will have excellent time management, planning, and verbal and written communication skills, with an aptitude for working with diverse team members on multi-disciplinary projects.

### What does the role entail?

As a Research Fellow, your main duties will include:

- Generating independent and original research that aims to identify maternal metabolites that are associated with infant birth weight whilst using novel epidemiological techniques to evaluate the role of individual metabolites (and patterns of metabolites) on infant birth weight;
- The pursuit and development of new techniques and methods to build upon and improve current metabolic methodologies;



- Developing research objectives and proposals and contributing to setting the direction of the research project and team, including preparing proposals for funding in collaboration with colleagues;
- Evaluating methods and techniques used and results obtained by other researchers and relating such evaluations appropriately to your own work;
- Preparing papers for publication in leading international journals and disseminating research results through other recognised forms of output;
- Working both independently and also as part of a larger team of researchers, engaging in knowledge-transfer activities where appropriate and feasible with the possibility of travelling nationally and internationally as required for conferences and meetings;
- Maintaining your own continuing professional development and acting as a mentor to less experienced colleagues as appropriate;
- Contributing to the training of both undergraduate and postgraduate students, including assisting with the supervision of projects in areas relevant to the project.

These duties provide a framework for the role and should not be regarded as a definitive list. Other reasonable duties may be required consistent with the grade of the post.

## What will you bring to the role?

As a Research Fellow you will have:

- A PhD in Nutrition, Epidemiology, Genetics, or a closely allied discipline;
- A strong background in genetics and/or metabolomics;
- Experience of analysing large epidemiological data sets;
- Knowledge of statistics, including parametric (e.g., multiple variable regression) and non-parametric (PCA, PLS) methods;
- Experience working with R or PLINK for analysis;
- A keen interest in the unique DOHaD of high-risk groups;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines, manage competing demands and work effectively under pressure without close support;
- A proven track record of peer-reviewed publications in high impact factor journals;



- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, including presentations skills to a wide audience;
- A proven ability to work well both individually and in a team;
- The ability to supervise and manage student projects;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development.

You may also have:

- Experience of pursuing external funding to support research;
- Experience of designing and delivering projects that address industry needs;
- Experience of working in multidisciplinary and multicultural teams.

## How to apply

You can apply for this role online; more guidance can be found on our [How to Apply](#) information page. Applications should be submitted by **23.59** (UK time) on the advertised closing date.

## Contact information

To explore the post further or for any queries you may have, please contact:

**[Dr. Michael Zulyniak](#), Lecturer of Obesity**

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 0685

Email: [m.a.zulyniak@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:m.a.zulyniak@leeds.ac.uk)

## Additional information

### A diverse workforce

The Faculty of Environment has also received a prestigious Athena SWAN bronze award from [Advance HE](#), the national body that promotes equality in the higher education sector. This award represents the combined efforts of all schools in the Faculty and shows the positive actions we have taken to ensure that policies, processes and ethos all promote an equal and inclusive environment for work and study.



## **Working at Leeds**

Find out more about the benefits of working at the University and what it is like to live and work in the Leeds area on our [Working at Leeds](#) information page.

## **Candidates with disabilities**

Information for candidates with disabilities, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found on our [Accessibility](#) information page or by getting in touch with us at [disclosure@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:disclosure@leeds.ac.uk).

## **Criminal record information**

### **Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974**

A criminal record check is not required for this position. However, all applicants will be required to declare if they have any 'unspent' criminal offences, including those pending.

Any offer of appointment will be in accordance with our Criminal Records policy. You can find out more about required checks and declarations in our [Criminal Records](#) information page.

