



**UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS**

## **CANDIDATE BRIEF**

**Research Fellow in Malnutrition, Obesity and Public Health, Faculty of Environment**



**Salary: Grade 7 (£33,797 - £40,322 p.a.)**

**Reference: ENVFS1007**

**Fixed-term until 30 January 2023**

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



# Research Fellow in Malnutrition, Obesity and Public Health

## 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 the area of malnutrition (under-nutrition and/or obesity) and public health, or experience of conducting health research in China? Do you want to further your career in one of the UKs leading research-intensive Universities?**

The double burden of malnutrition (DBM) refers to the coexistence of undernutrition, including stunting, wasting, and underweight; with overweight and obesity in a society. The DBM, accompanied with micronutrients deficiency (MND) in childhood, is a significant risk for impaired physical and cognitive growth and development. China's fast economic development has seen increasing incidence of overweight/obese children in affluent regions which results from an imbalance of energy consumption and expenditure. In recognition of these problems, China has developed national dietary guidelines to promote healthy diets in children. Furthermore, nutritional intervention strategies have been undertaken and shown effectiveness in addressing MND and undernutrition in children. However, a major challenge is to scale-up these interventions to the whole population using a combined food system approach and this is the aim of the research for which this post is advertised.

The research will be conducted in partnership with the Nutrition and Health Institute of China Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (China CDC) and the China National Health Development Research Centre (CNHDRC). The field research programme spans a number of regions in China representing different levels of development involving a large cohort of study participants (children and their parents/carers). The research aims to assess the social economic and environmental barriers and develop novel approaches to improve the scalability of food-system based strategies (supplementation, biofortification, culturally acceptable educational materials and nutritional guidelines for schools) aimed at reducing MND associated with the DBM in China and beyond. There will also be the opportunity to be involved in experimental research within the project, assessing children's preferences and cognitive and physical functions as well as behavioural interventions to increase liking of certain foods.



With a PhD in nutrition, public health, epidemiology, psychology or a closely allied discipline, you will have a strong background in nutritional epidemiology research and/or qualitative research and statistical skills/experience. You will also have experience of conducting research with human participants and the ability to travel to and conduct field visits in China.

## What does the role entail?

As a Research Fellow, your main duties will include:

- Coordinating the project on a day-to-day basis, communicating with the Principle/Co Investigators/partners to implement project planning, develop protocol and progress reporting in a timely manner;
- Summarising research data, preparing papers for publication in leading international journals and disseminating research results through other recognised forms of output;
- Evaluating research methods and techniques used and results obtained by the team to ensure the research follows good research practice as defined by the UKRI and to relate such evaluations appropriately to your own work;
- Developing research objectives and contributing to proposals for funding;
- Working independently and also as part of a larger team of researchers, engaging in knowledge-transfer activities where appropriate and feasible;
- 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;
- Frequent travel to China and involvement in research field visits in China, however the post will be UK based.

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, public health, epidemiology, psychology or a closely allied discipline;



- A strong background in nutritional epidemiology research, and/or qualitative research and statistical skills/experience;
- Experience in conducting research with human participants;
- 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 in the project relevant field;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills including presentation skills;
- The ability to travel to, and conduct field visits in China;
- A proven ability to work well both individually and in a team;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development.

You may also have:

- The ability to communicate in Chinese;
- Experience in conducting survey, qualitative or experimental research with children and young people.

## 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:

### [Professor Yun Yun Gong](#)

Tel: +44 (0)113 3431413

Email: [y.gong@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:y.gong@leeds.ac.uk)

## Additional information

### A diverse workforce

The Faculty of Environment has 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 (Exceptions) Order 1975**

This post requires an enhanced criminal record check from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), and any equivalent overseas authorities where relevant. The successful candidate will be required to give consent for the University to check their criminal record status. All applicants are required to make a self-declaration where applicable.

Any offer of appointment will be subject to the University being satisfied with the outcome of these checks, in accordance with our Criminal Records policy. You can find out more about required checks and declarations in our [Criminal Records](#) information page.

