



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: ENVFS1008

Fixed-term for 21 months, from May/June 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, metabolomics, or 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 low infant birth weight in South Asians in the UK.

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 nutrients and diet on the association between metabolites and birth weight.

You will have a PhD in Epidemiology, or a closely allied discipline (or be close to completion, i.e. have submitted your thesis before taking up the position), alongside a strong background in genetics or metabolomics. Your research experience will have provided knowledge of the health sciences, with experience analysing large 'omics data sets (i.e., 'big data'). 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 early maternal shifts in metabolism that are associated with birth weight;
- Using novel epidemiological techniques to evaluate the role of individual markers of maternal metabolism (i.e., 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 Epidemiology, or a closely allied discipline (or be close to completion, i.e. have submitted your thesis before taking up the position);
- A background in health sciences, and genetics and/or metabolomics;
- Experience analysing large epidemiological and 'omics data sets;
- Knowledge of statistics, including parametric (e.g., multiple variable regression) and non-parametric (PCA, PLS) methods;
- Experience with data analysis using appropriate packages;
- A keen interest in DOHaD and high-risk populations;
- 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 of researchers and the general public;
- A proven ability to work well both individually and in a team;
- Experience managing or leading independent or team research projects

You may also have:

- Experience of pursuing external funding to support research;
- Experience of working in multidisciplinary and multicultural teams;
- Experience supervising and managing student projects;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development.

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

Additional information

Co-investigators:

- Dr Mark Iles; School of Medicine and Leeds Institute for Data Analytics, University of Leeds.
- Prof Deborah Lawlor; Bristol Biomedical Research Centre; Bristol Medical School.



Funding

This project is funded by the Wellcome Trust



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.

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.

