



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

## CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in Nutritional Epidemiology, Faculty of Environment



**Salary: Grade 7 (£39,105 - £46,485 p.a).** This role cannot be appointed above £42,632 p.a. due to funding restrictions.

**Reporting to: Prof Janet Cade**

**Reference: ENVFS1132**

**Fixed term for 3 years from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025 to complete specific time limited work.**

**We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements**

# Research Fellow in Nutritional Epidemiology

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

### Overview of the Role

**Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have an established background in nutritional epidemiology or public health related research? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive universities?**

We are seeking an experienced Research Fellow to join the Nutritional Epidemiology Group (NEG) to support an exciting new project: The 'Growing Well' study. The project will provide new evidence on diet in children aged 1-5 years, linked to optimum growth and dental health, quantifying age-appropriate portion sizes for different foods and drinks.

This project involves a multi-disciplinary team across two Universities: the University of Leeds and Queen Mary University, London and NatCen who will undertake fieldwork. Participants from 3 locations: Leeds, Doncaster and East London will be included. The total sample size will be 2100 parents/carers and children, recruited through the Born and Bred in (BaBi) Network birth cohorts boosting the sample as needed through Early Years contacts, health visitors and Social Media.

You will have a PhD (or near to completion) in Nutritional Epidemiology or a closely allied discipline together with a strong background in nutritional epidemiology or public health related research. You will also have a positive approach to collaborative research, with experience in quantitative analysis of large datasets using statistical software. 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.



## Main duties and responsibilities

- Leading on participant recruitment: parents/carers and children aged 1-5 years from Leeds, Doncaster and East London, liaising with the team at Queen Mary University and the BaBi teams; monitoring recruitment of participants ensuring targets for child age, gender, deprivation level and ethnicity are met;
- Enhancing recruitment of target groups through contacts with Early Years Services and Social Media;
- Preparing ethics application documents and organising, undertaking and analysing a small pilot test of methods planned;
- Preparing content and arranging a project website;
- Supporting the project Advisory Group and recruiting PPIE team members in collaboration with our Col PPIE representatives. Working with the PPIE team on specific public engagement activity to promote the project and provide feedback and recommendations;
- Supporting NatCen in relation to participant fieldwork, including identifying suitable venues for fieldwork clinics;
- Supporting collection of online food data using myfood24 and other data as needed;
- Working with the project Manager (Dr Threapleton) and co-PI (Prof Cade) to analyse data at baseline and after 1 year follow-up. Evaluating food and nutrient intake in relation to i) growth over 12 months, ii) child and parent characteristics, including ethnic diversity, and iii) dental health;
- Supporting recommendation preparation for nutrition and age-appropriate portions in relation to anthropometry and dental health;
- Generating and pursuing independent and original research ideas in the appropriate subject area;
- 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 to relate 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;



- 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.

## **Qualifications and skills**

### Essential

- A PhD (or near completion - i.e. the initial thesis needs to have been handed in at the point of application), in Nutritional Epidemiology or a closely allied discipline;
- A strong background in nutritional epidemiology or public health related research;
- Experience in quantitative analysis of large datasets using statistical software;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines, manage competing demands and work effectively under pressure without close support;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills including presentation skills;
- A proven ability to work well both individually and in a team;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development.

### Desirable

- A proven track record of peer-reviewed publications in high impact factor journals;
- Experience of research in families with young children in the UK;
- Experience of dietary assessment research using online tools and anthropometric measurements;
- Experience of pursuing external funding to support research.



## 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 Janet Cade, Professor in Nutritional Epidemiology**

Email: [j.e.cade@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:j.e.cade@leeds.ac.uk)

## Additional information

Please note: If you are not a British or Irish citizen, from 1 January 2021 you will require permission to work in the UK. This will normally be in the form of a visa but, if you are an EEA/Swiss citizen and resident in the UK before 31 December 2020, this may be your passport or status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

Please note that this post may be suitable for sponsorship under the Skilled Worker visa route but first-time applicants might need to qualify for salary concessions. For more information please visit: [www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa](http://www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa)

For research and academic posts, we will consider eligibility under the Global Talent visa. For more information please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/global-talent>

Find out more about the [Faculty of Environment](#).

Find out more about the [School of Food Science and Nutrition](#)

Find out more about our [Research and associated facilities](#)

Find out more about [Equality in the Faculty](#)



## **Working at Leeds**

We are a campus based community and regular interaction with campus is an expectation of all roles in line with academic and service needs and the requirements of the role. We are also open to discussing flexible working arrangements. To find out more about the benefits of working at the University and what it is like to live and work in the Leeds area visit our [Working at Leeds](#) information page.

## **A diverse workforce**

The Faculty of Environment has received a prestigious Athena SWAN silver 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 our policies, processes and ethos all promote an equal and inclusive environment for work and study. Our [equality and inclusion webpage](#) provides more information.

## **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**

This post requires a basic 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 and all applicants must 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.

