



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in Global Health History, Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures



Salary: Grade 7 (£39,355- £46,735 p.a. depending on experience)

Reporting to: Dr Robert Hornsby

Reference: AHCH1067

Available on a fixed term basis, from October 2025 to June 2029, to complete specific time limited work.

This position is open for 2 full-time Research Fellows.

Location: University of Leeds, with scope for hybrid working

We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements.

Research Fellow in The Global Health History (Soviet focused)

School of History

Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have an established background in either Global Health History or History of the Soviet Union? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive Universities?

The School of History invites applications for two full-time postdoctoral research fellows, to contribute to the Wellcome Trust funded project 'The Soviet Union, the WHO and Global Health, 1957-91'. Successful candidates will join a four-year research project (starting October 2025) investigating the role of the Soviet Union in global health between 1957 and 1991. Each appointee will conduct historical research on Soviet involvement in global efforts – both through the World Health Organisation and bilateral ties – to tackle one of the following diseases: malaria, polio and HIV/AIDS. Each appointee will also take responsibility for one broad theme of research on Soviet involvement in global health. These include: vaccines and vaccination, health education and propaganda, and medical surveillance and resourcing. Duties will also include writing for publication, presenting research findings to a variety of audiences, and liaising with key project partners.

Candidates should have an academic background either in the history of the Soviet Union or in health history. Training in Russian language will be available for project members.

Main duties and responsibilities

As a Research Fellow your main duties will include:

- Designing, planning and conducting a programme of investigation, in consultation with Dr Robert Hornsby;



- Making a significant contribution to the dissemination of research results, such as by publication in leading peer-reviewed journals, and by presentation at national and international meetings;
- Working independently and as part of a larger team of researchers, both internally and externally, to develop new research links and collaborations and engage in knowledge transfer activities where appropriate;
- Evaluating methods and techniques used and results obtained by other researchers and relating such evaluations to your own research;
- To contribute to, and to encourage, a safe working environment.

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 close to completion) in Global Health History or Soviet History or a closely allied discipline;
- Experience in working with a variety of historical source materials and research methods relating to either global health or the Soviet Union;
- A developing track record of high quality research outputs;
- Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal, and the ability to communicate your research to a wide variety of audiences
- A proven ability to work well both independently, specifically to design, execute and write up research and as part of a wider team;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development and to fostering positive research culture

Desirable

- Experience of working with historical source materials relating to malaria, polio or HIV/AIDS;
- Experience of working with Russian language source material;
- Experience in conducting oral history interviews;
- Experience of conducting research within established ethical guidelines;

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. Robert Hornsby
r.hornsby@leeds.ac.uk

Additional information

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.

Our University

As an international research-intensive university, we welcome students and staff from all walks of life and from across the world. We foster an inclusive environment where all can flourish and prosper, and we are proud of our strong commitment to student education.

Within the School of History we are dedicated to diversifying our community and we welcome the unique contributions that individuals can bring, and particularly encourage applications from, but not limited to Black, Asian, people who belong to a minority ethnic community; people who identify as LGBT+; and disabled people. Candidates will always be selected based on merit and ability.

Information for disabled candidates

Information for disabled candidates, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found under the 'Accessibility' heading on our



[How to Apply](#) information page or by getting in touch by [emailing HR via hr@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:hr@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.

Salary Requirements of the Skilled Worker Visa Route

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.

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>.

