



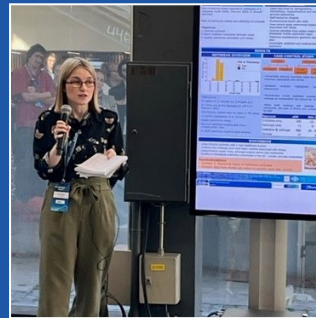
UK Health
Security
Agency



UKFETP

Field Epidemiology
Training Programme

UK Field Epidemiology Training Programme Prospectus 2025



An introduction to the two-year programme for prospective applicants

Welcome to the UK Field Epidemiology Training Programme

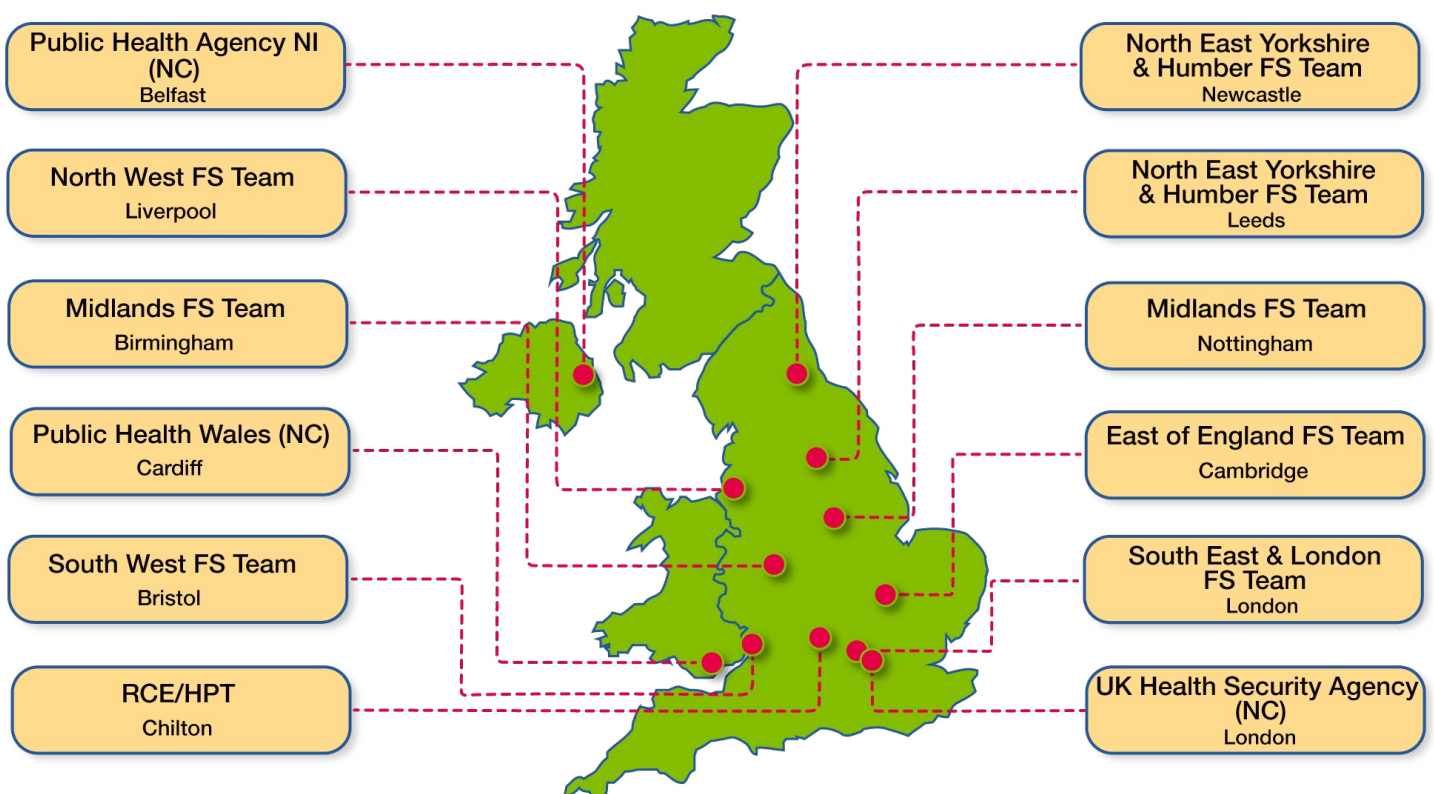
The UK Field Epidemiology Training Programme (UKFETP) is a full-time two-year fellowship programme which provides training and practical experience in intervention epidemiology and aims to develop specialist field epidemiology skills. The UKFETP has been modelled on the Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and follows the same principles of other advanced FETPs such as the European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (EPIET) and others FETPs delivered globally. The UKFETP has been accredited by the Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network (TEPHINET), the global network of field epidemiology programmes currently active in over 200 countries in the world.

Training is provided mainly through on-the-job service provision and supervised learning activities, but at least ten percent of the time will be dedicated to formally taught training courses. The programme currently covers England, Wales and Northern Ireland.







Training sites

There are currently 12 sites, which include national centres (NC) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Many sites are part of the UKHSA Field Service (FS); a nationally coordinated and managed service with specialist field epidemiology teams spread across the regions of England. All sites work closely with local Health Protection Teams (HPT) but the Chilton site offers the opportunity to embed within the HPT in a site which is split with the national lead epidemiology team for chemical and radiation hazards (RCE).

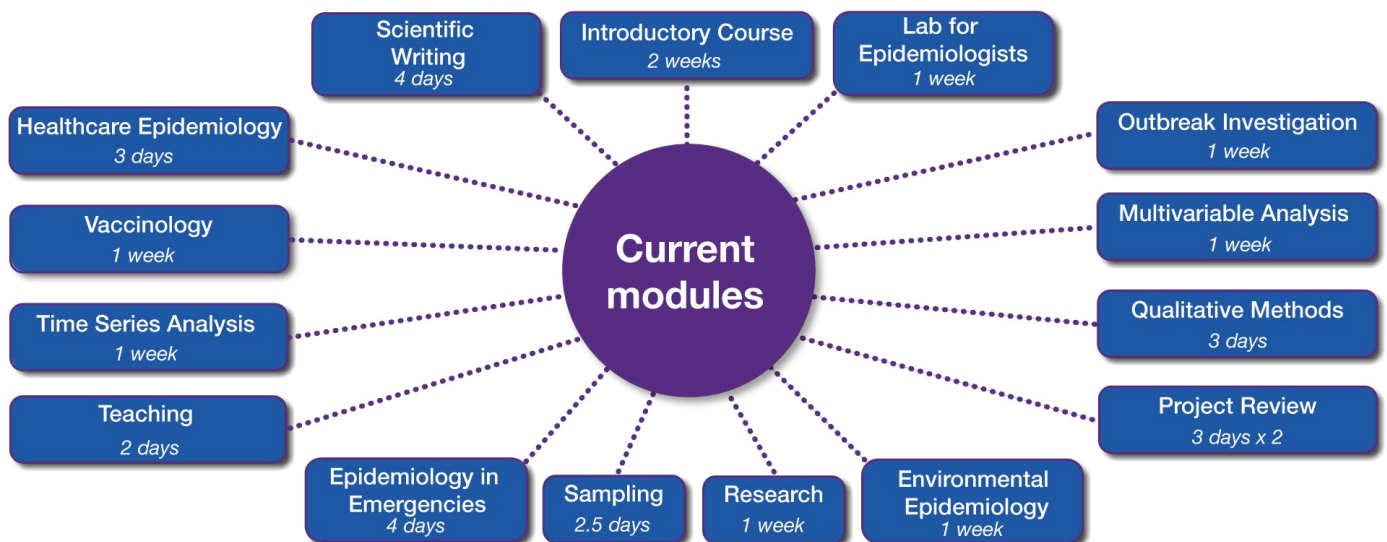


Programme goals & graduation criteria

UKFETP goals







-  To strengthen capacity and provision of public health epidemiology.
-  To develop a network of skilled field epidemiologists with a shared sense of purpose, working to common standards across the UK and Europe.
-  To raise the profile of field epidemiology and embed this into everyday health protection practice.
-  To support UKHSA's global public health workplan through provision of fellows and staff to support international response and capacity building.

Modules



Graduation criteria

These are the minimum criteria to pass the programme, but the fellowship has flexibility and time to support multiple projects in different areas, based on the needs of individual fellows.

-  **1** **Outbreak investigations:** Conduct an analytical outbreak investigation
-  **2** **Surveillance:** Develop, implement or evaluate a surveillance system
-  **3** **Research:** Complete an applied epidemiology research project
-  **4** **Training:** Conduct a learning needs assessment, develop, deliver and evaluate a teaching or training session
-  **5** **Communication:** Submit a manuscript to a peer-reviewed journal and deliver an oral presentation at a national or international conference
-  **6** **Multivariable analysis:** Demonstrate the use of multivariable analysis techniques in at least one project

Recruitment

Recruitment timetable

December:
Recruitment opens

March/April:
Face to face interviews

September:
Start of fellowship

Where have previous fellows come from?

- UKHSA, Public Health Wales, Public Health Agency Northern Ireland
- UK Faculty of Public Health training programme
- Infection control / healthcare epidemiology roles in hospitals
- Other public health agencies / academia

Previous fellows have come from the following roles:

- Epidemiological scientists and analysts
- Public health / health protection nurses
- Veterinary epidemiologists
- Public health analysts in local authorities
- PhD graduates
- Public health registrars
- Clinical and public health microbiologists
- Infectious disease registrars

We welcome applications from anyone who meets the eligibility criteria (detailed below), regardless of their current employer or role.

What do you need to be able to apply?

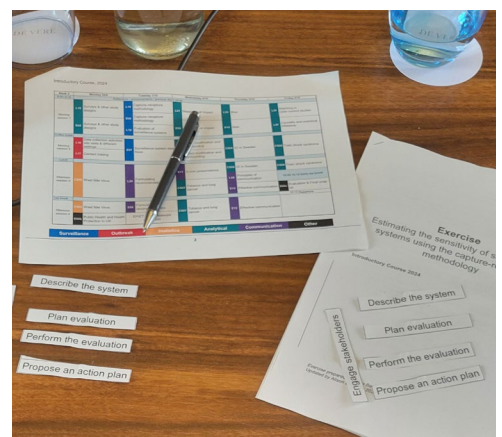
1. A completed Masters degree or PhD in a scientific discipline with a significant health (human or animal), public health, epidemiology or data analysis component OR, for equivalence, a minimum of four years supervised experience in public health, epidemiology or health protection with evidence of publications.
2. Demonstrable experience of working within public health, health protection or epidemiology for at least 18 months by the date of application. Time spent in education including PhD studies does not qualify.
3. Be able to demonstrate how the UKFETP will be of benefit to your future career.



Cohort 2024 at the introductory course with the UKFETP scientific co-ordinators team



Group work with cohorts 2022 and 2023 at the teaching module



Fellows undertake an activity on surveillance evaluation in the introductory course

Why do UKFETP?

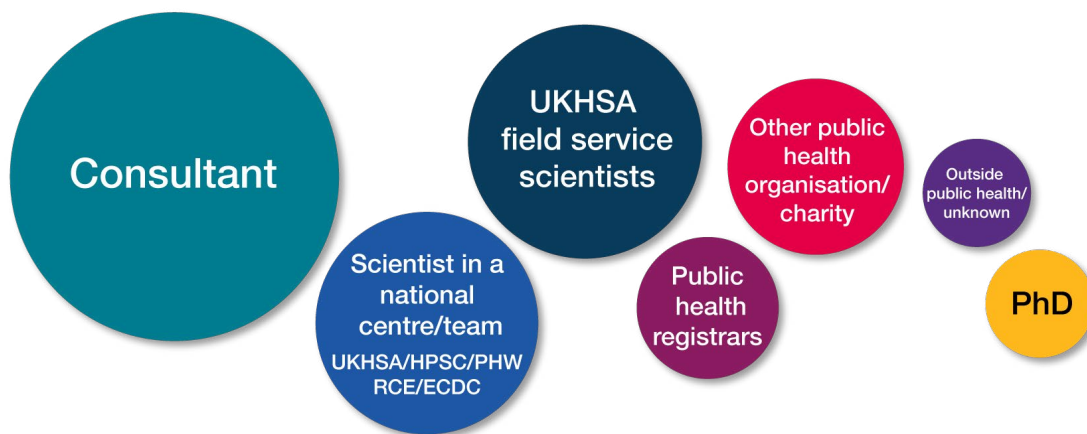
The UKFETP is postgraduate level training aligned with other accredited FETP programmes delivered worldwide. The two-year fellowship will enable development, focusing on your individual training needs through on-the-job supervision. You will experience significant personal and professional growth and development, but the programme does not offer automatic career progression at the end of the fellowship. By the end of your training you can expect to become an independent field epidemiology professional with the capability to apply your knowledge, skills and experience in the real world.

What you can gain

- ✓ Professional background and expertise often requested in roles advertised in field epidemiology
- ✓ Networking skills and links to professionals with a common interest
- ✓ Time out for structured learning / opportunity to develop key skills
- ✓ New ways of looking at things
- ✓ Exposure to a variety of different project opportunities

Where have fellows ended up?

Includes all fellows that have completed the programme, from 2011 onwards. All are current job roles in 2024.



From 2011 to the end of 2024:

74 Graduated fellows
21 Fellows in the programme

Fellows' achievements

129 Peer-reviewed papers published
135 Oral presentations at national and international scientific conferences
134 Poster presentations at national and international scientific conferences
51 International assignments



Mona Dave from Cohort 2021 presenting a poster at a conference in Taiwan

Recent cohort highlights



Cohorts 2022 - 2024 at the graduation of Cohort 2022

Recent examples of FETP fellow projects

Outbreaks:

- *Cryptosporidium parvum* outbreak at a petting farms
- Outbreak of Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) O145:H28 t5.456
- *Pseudomonas* in Paediatric Haematology Oncology hospital ward
- Investigation of a cluster of carbapenemase-producing *Enterobacterales* (CPE)

Surveillance:

- Evaluation of UKHSA infectious disease surveillance in inclusion health groups
- HIV Surveillance Evaluation in Northern Ireland
- Evaluation of the completeness and timeliness of detecting clusters of TB in South West England
- Setting up Dengue Enhanced Surveillance in the UK

Fellow projects continue overleaf



Cohort 2022 fellow Daniel Stewart at graduation, being presented with his certificate from UKHSA Chief Medical Advisor Susan Hopkins



Current fellow Luke McGeoch from Cohort 2023 addresses graduates from Cohort 2022 at graduation

Recent cohort highlights

Research:

- Rainfall and *Cryptosporidium parvum* incidence in South West England: a time-series analysis, 2016-2019
- Investigating effects of weather on UK STEC outbreaks
- Outcomes of MSSA ST97 and non-ST97 infections: a retrospective cohort study

Teaching:

- Evaluation of New Variant Assessment Platform Epidemiology training programme
- TARZET Data Science Learning Needs Assessment
- Design and implementation of a Fundamentals in Epidemiology Course for UK Overseas Territories Public Health staff

International missions:

- Health needs assessment for Ukrainian refugees, Slovakia
- Excess mortality due to COVID-19, the Gambia
- COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness among healthcare workers, Azerbaijan
- Evaluation of R training for Africa CDC, Ethiopia
- Cholera outbreak, Kenya
- UK Emergency Medical Team's deployment, Malawi
- Yellow fever outbreak response review, South Sudan
- Cholera outbreak, Zambia



Cohort 2022 fellow Iona Smith undertook a deployment to South Sudan in response to a Yellow Fever outbreak

Training sites

Read more about the 12 sites in the UKFETP programme
in the following training site profiles

Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre (CDSC), Public Health Wales

Communicable disease surveillance – including specialty groups for STI/BBV/TB/inequalities; Acute respiratory and vaccine preventable diseases; Gastrointestinal, emerging and zoonotic infections; Healthcare associated infections and AMR; Statistics, data science and genomic epidemiology; Environment and climate surveillance; Field epidemiology. CDSC works closely with the Wales Health Protection Teams and environmental public health team, on incident response and surveillance.

Office location: Capital Quarter in Cardiff, Wales – 10 minutes from Cardiff Central Station

Primary Field Supervisor: Dr Chris Williams: christopher.williams25@wales.nhs.uk

Academic links: Links to Swansea University, including access to research based on the data held in the Secure Anonymised Information Linkage (SAIL) databank. University teaching on the Masters in Public Health (MPH) course at Cardiff University and Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. One Health (with Bangor and Cardiff Universities).

Key health protection challenges

- Elimination of blood borne viruses, TB, measles, polio and HPV
- Integrating data on emerging and vector-borne infections, vectors and the environment; climate sensitive infections and mortality
- Hospital epidemiology
- Modelling impacts of respiratory infections
- Enhanced epidemiology and surveillance of vaccination programmes: uptake, equity, effectiveness, impact
- AMR national action plan targets and rising C. difficile incidence

Recent projects conducted by the fellow & wider team

- Surveillance for cercarial dermatitis (swimmers' itch)
- Outbreak of cryptosporidium in visitors to a farm
- Hospital ward risk factors for COVID-19 outbreaks
- Long-term sequelae of E. coli O157 infection
- The impact of invitations and reminders on [uptake of shingles vaccination](#)
- Establishing sentinel surveillance of acute respiratory infections through community pharmacies
- Development of enhanced surveillance of vaccination equity / effectiveness through data linkage
- Data science methods for identifying care home cases and incidents
- Developing serosurveillance in blood donors and children

Additional information

CDSC Wales has been an EPIET training site since 1996, hosting eight EPIET fellows and two MS-track fellows, and a UKFETP site since 2019. CDSC works closely with the all Wales Health Protection Team, as well as the Vaccine Preventable Disease Programme, environmental epidemiology and Communicable disease inclusion programmes and the Pathogen Genomics Unit. CDSC is close to University Hospital of Wales, site for the National Influenza Centre, UK Anaerobe Reference Unit, the Specialist Antimicrobial Chemotherapy Unit, the Mycology Regional Reference Unit, the Wales Centre for Mycobacteria and the Wales Specialist Virology Centre. CDSC is also closely linked to the Public Health Genomics programme and pathogen genomics unit, and Wales hosts the Cryptosporidium and Giardia UK reference laboratories. CDSC have good links to Welsh government as well as to laboratory and communications staff, who offer placements to trainees. There are regular training and development sessions including a journal club. There are good opportunities for fellows to work on large research projects, such as the "Be on the TEAM" meningitis B study.

East of England Field Service Team

Key topic areas

Group A Streptococcus, emerging infections and zoonoses, GI, environmental, HCAI & AMR, TB, sexual health.

Office location: Forvie Site, Institute of Public Health (Cambridge University), Addenbrookes hospital site, Cambridge (FS)

Primary Field Supervisor: Ellen Heinsbroek: ellen.heinsbroek@ukhsa.gov.uk

Academic links: Cambridge University / University of East Anglia

East of England has a population of approximately 6.4 million and covers a large geographical area. The population comprises both urban and rural populations with some of the most deprived and some of the most affluent areas of the country.

Key health protection challenges

- Large number of Group A Streptococcus clusters in different local authorities and settings.
- TB outbreaks in various settings. Screening events are supported by the Health Protection Team and Field Service Team.
- Avian Influenza outbreaks in the region, mainly linked to poultry farming

Recent projects conducted by the fellow & wider team

- Development of an extensive surveillance programme together with the Health Protection Team
- Evaluation of an internally developed Power BI dashboard to detect and investigate clusters of Group A Streptococcus
- Case-control study of an outbreak of MRSA in a neonatal unit.
- Serosurveillance of Usutu virus exposure in humans in England
- Case-control study of national outbreak of Salmonella

Additional information

The FS team is co-located with (part of) the East of England Health Protection Team and Institute of Public Health (Cambridge University) on the Addenbrookes Hospital site, which also includes the UKHSA regional laboratory. The East of England Health Protection Team and FS team work closely together, with several joint meetings and projects set up between them.

The FS team has extensive experience in the rapid set up of Power BI dashboards to support outbreak and cluster investigations with interactive visualisations. There is also good working knowledge of SQL, STATA and R within the team.

Midlands Field Service Team (Nottingham & Birmingham)

Key topic areas: Data science, healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial resistance, Influenza and other respiratory diseases, Legionellosis, sexual health, Hepatitis, Tuberculosis
Research interests: Legionellosis, operational research, TB, respiratory disease

Office location: Seaton House, City Link, Nottingham & 23 Stephenson Street, Birmingham

Primary Field Supervisor: John Mair Jenkins: john.mairjenkins@ukhsa.gov.uk

Academic links: University of Warwick, University of Nottingham

Key health protection challenges

- All hazards response to incidents in a population of >10 million people
- High rates of Tuberculosis and STIs
- Migrant health
- HCAI outbreaks
- High levels of deprivation and homelessness in urban centres and some rural areas
- Densely populated urban areas and sparsely populated rural areas with varying infectious disease epidemiology
- Wide ethnic diversity with range of health protection challenges alongside an aging population

Recent projects conducted by the fellow & wider team

- Investigation of a GI outbreak at hotel and associated wedding
- Evaluation of Birmingham Children's Hospital's response to a measles outbreak
- iGAS outbreak associated with District Nursing team, Outcomes of MSSA ST97 and non-ST97 infections: a pilot retrospective cohort study
- Evaluation of UKHSA infectious disease surveillance for health equity and inclusion health group data
- Evaluation of UKHSA Antimicrobial Resistance surveillance for health inequalities and inclusion health groups
- Development of serological assays for the specific detection of influenza A H5 haemagglutinin (HA) antibodies (protocol development, ethical approval and operational plan)
- Cryptosporidiosis outbreak linked to a water park
- Response to large and rapidly growing measles outbreak in Birmingham
- Response to population wide increases in measles and pertussis along with establishing regular surveillance for regional and local stakeholders
- Commonwealth Games 2022: establishing and evaluating surveillance for a mass gathering event after pandemic
- Response to a wide range of routine outbreaks in community, healthcare, education and social care settings using descriptive and analytical epidemiology to support public health actions

Additional information

The Midlands Field Service Team was formed during COVID-19 from the existing East and West Midlands teams. You will join a diverse team of around 25 people and train with other FETP fellows, specialist registrars and clinical scientists on placement with us. We are a single training site with office locations in Birmingham and Nottingham. This offers flexibility in training base and enables close working and collaboration with two, collocated Health Protection Teams. The Birmingham office is also home to the UKHSA real-time syndromic surveillance team which also offers the opportunity for collaboration.

Health Protection Directorate Service, Public Health Agency Northern Ireland

Key topic areas: The Public Health Agency, Northern Ireland (NI), is a National Centre and therefore is involved in: surveillance of communicable disease at the local and regional levels, provision of support to primary and secondary healthcare professionals around health protection issues, field investigation of communicable disease outbreaks in the community and healthcare settings, multi-professional training in communicable disease epidemiology and audit of communicable disease control, provision of support to the Department of Health on communicable disease policy and implementation and monitoring of vaccination programmes.

Research interests: Factors influencing vaccine uptake and effectiveness; application of pathogen genomics for public health risk-assessment and risk management; factors influencing antimicrobial prescribing.

Office location: Linenhall Street, Belfast

Primary Field Supervisor: Declan Bradley: declan.bradley@hscni.net

Academic links: Queens University of Belfast

Key health protection challenges

- Northern Ireland has high antibiotic prescribing compared to other parts of the UK
- Childhood vaccine uptake has fallen in recent years
- Adoption of reproducible analytical pipelines and modern, robust approaches to data analysis

Recent projects conducted by the fellow & wider team

- Molecular epidemiology of Mycobacterium tuberculosis in Northern Ireland
- Learning Needs Assessment of presentation of surveillance data, 2023
- Prevalence of oropharyngeal gonorrhoea across the island of Ireland, 2023-2024
- Rapid review of MRSA in Northern Ireland, 2018-2023
- Evaluation of Hepatitis B and C surveillance in Northern Ireland, 2024
- The evaluation for the survey of prevalent HIV infections diagnosed (SOPHID) in Northern Ireland
- Epidemiology of mpox in Northern Ireland, 2022
- Investigating the predictors of iGAS infection post COVID-19 pandemic in Northern Ireland
- Learning Needs Assessment- Confidence Intervals in Health Protection Surveillance, PHA N.I
- Rapid review of Enteroviruses in Northern Ireland, 2018-2023
- Estimating the effectiveness of influenza vaccination in Northern Ireland, Winter 2023-2024
- Development of a routine Mycobacterium chimaera surveillance system in Northern Ireland
- Development of an all-hazards situational awareness report for Northern Ireland

Additional information

We have a small, friendly team of around 30 surveillance and epidemiology scientists who provide infectious disease surveillance and epidemiology for Northern Ireland. We are focusing on developing our team's confidence, knowledge and skills with a comprehensive CPD programme, redesigning our processes (tracking our work through Jira and sharing code through Git), and building resilience. We use R, Microsoft Azure, Shiny dashboards and RMarkdown reports and Microsoft PowerBI. The team is overseen by a deputy director of public health, two lead epidemiologists and a programme manager. We work closely with the health protection consultants and nurses who deliver the response service and who lead on strategic work to prevent harm from all hazards.

Clinical & Public Health Group, Colindale

Key topic areas, national teams:

Tuberculosis, acute respiratory, emerging /zoonotic infections, travel health, gastrointestinal infections, immunisation, seasonal influenza, healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial resistance, sexual transmitted infections, HIV and blood-borne viruses.

Research interests: Viral Hepatitis, Seasonal respiratory viruses and COVID-19, HIV, Healthcare-associated infections, Gastro-intestinal infections, Zoonoses and emerging infections.

Office location: Colindale, London (accessible via Northern Line)

Primary Field Supervisor: Gavin Dabrera: gavin.dabrera@ukhsa.gov.uk

Academic links: London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (immunisation health protection research unit), Imperial College London

Key health protection challenges: Vaccine preventable diseases, emerging infections, antimicrobial resistance

Recent projects conducted by the fellow

Surveillance:

- Development of enhanced surveillance of Dengue Fever in England
- Surveillance of Psittacosis in England
- Lyme disease enhanced surveillance protocol - a pilot study to strengthen the surveillance of laboratory-confirmed cases of Lyme disease
- Pertussis infection in pre-school age children in England: Data linkage / capture-recapture
- Evaluation of national Carbapenemase Producing Enterobacteriaceae (CPE) surveillance
- Investigation of risking STEC o26 and the role of farm and nurse exposures 2014-2023

Research:

- Vaccine effectiveness among immunosuppressed persons
- Risk factors associated with enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) infection: a case-control study
- Seroprevalence of SARS-CoV-2 among blood donors in England
- Investigation of the burden and causes of Influenza-Like Illness in UK healthcare workers winter 2023-24 using metagenomic methods
- Frequency and correlates of STI testing amongst community sampled GBMSM 2023 to inform screening guidance

Outbreak:

- Multi-drug resistant *Corynebacterium diphtheriae* in asylum seekers in England
- National STEC outbreak
- National incident of paediatric hepatitis of unknown aetiology
- National Hepatitis A outbreak in England and Wales linked to medjool dates
- National outbreak of *Salmonella* Blockley 2024
- Description of TB cluster associated with prison settings 2018-2024
- Regional cryptosporidium outbreak

Teaching:

- Global health teaching in relation to epidemiology for international attendees
- Training on scientific writing for the SIREN team

Additional information: Multiple applied epidemiological research projects across the divisions.

North East & Yorkshire and Humber Field Service Team

Field Service topic leads: Healthcare-associated infections & antimicrobial resistance, Hepatitis & blood safety, HIV & sexually transmitted infections, Tuberculosis, data science & informatics, global health. **Research interests:** Bloodborne viruses, healthcare-associated infections, statistical modelling, HIV & sexually transmitted infections, global health.

Office location: Civic Centre, Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Quarry House, Leeds

Primary Field Supervisor: Petra Manley: petra.manley@ukhsa.gov.uk

Academic links: Newcastle University, Teesside University, University of Sheffield, University of York, University of Leeds, Health Protection Research Unit in Modelling and Health Economics

Key health protection challenges:

North East: Some of the highest rates of healthcare-associated infections, sexually transmitted infections and mumps nationally; a large number of prisons; large differences in population density and high deprivation.

Yorkshire and Humber: Large counties with some urban areas but significant rural areas with large farming communities; area includes three international airports, two major seaports and a number of military bases.

Recent projects conducted by the fellow & wider team

- Investigation of the risk factors for COVID-19 transmission using NHS Test and Trace data
- Assessing the impact of the Kaiser Permanente calculator on detection of neonatal sepsis
- Get Tested LeEDs: Estimating bloodborne virus prevalence and associated risk factors through routine opt-out emergency department testing
- Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on gastrointestinal infection trends in England, Feb-July 2020
- Investigation of COVID-19 transmission during the first community outbreak in a remote island population, Falkland Islands, April-June 2022
- Understanding the epidemiology of E. coli bloodstream infections in the North of England
- Teaching: Fundamentals of surveillance data management and outbreak investigation skills training course for UK Overseas Territories
- Evaluation of yellow fever outbreak surveillance, Western Equatoria State, South Sudan 2024
- An extended outbreak of HIV amongst people who inject drugs detected by phylogenetic and epidemiological analyses in Yorkshire and Humber, 2021-2023
- Factors associated with late HIV diagnosis in England, 2015 to 2022
- Evaluating the impact on health outcomes of an event that resulted in a delay in contact tracing of COVID-19 cases in England, September 2020: An observational study
- International travel as a risk factor for gastrointestinal infections in residents of NE England
- COVID-19 cluster surveillance using exposure data collected from routine contact tracing: The genomic validation of a novel informatics-based approach to outbreak detection in England

Additional information:

Opportunities of working with two Health Protection Teams (HPTs) and across two UKHSA regions. Both HPTs and FS team are co-located and have a close working relationship, allowing for early involvement of FS colleagues in outbreaks and incidents. A UKHSA Consultant in Public Health Infection is based in the office. The North East has a dedicated surveillance system, EpiNorth3, which has been running for many years and collates details on cases of infectious disease, testing methods, exposures, etc. This system has a wealth of information that many FETP projects have been based on.

North West Field Service Team

Field Service topic leads: Data science, Streptococcal and staphylococcal infections, Gastrointestinal infections, Healthcare Associated Infections & AMR

Research interests: Gastrointestinal infections, emerging and zoonotic infections, antimicrobial resistance, vaccine preventable diseases, Group A streptococcal infections, global health.

Office location: Cunard Building, Liverpool

Primary Field Supervisor: Valerie Decraene: valerie.dekraene@ukhsa.gov.uk

Academic links: University of Liverpool, University of Manchester, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Lancaster University, Liverpool John Moore University via Health Protection Research Units: Warwick University, Oxford University, University of East Anglia

Key health protection challenges

- Some of the highest rates of TB, STIs (including hepatitis) and antimicrobial resistance in the country
- High levels of deprivation and health inequalities
- Densely populated urban areas and sparsely populated rural areas with high levels of agricultural activity
- Ongoing major issue with carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales at a number of north west hospitals
- Large number of COMA sites and huge legacy of contaminated land resulting from the chemical industry, particularly in parts of Cheshire and Merseyside, and two nuclear reprocessing facilities within our area within the region

Recent projects conducted by the fellow & wider team

- Inequalities in the incidence of infectious diseases in NW England: a population-based study
- Implementation of targeted enhanced surveillance for berry-related hepatitis A infections in England
- Investigation into two national nosocomial Burkholderia cepacia complex outbreaks, UK, 2021
- Risk of symptomatic COVID-19 due to aircraft transmission: a retrospective cohort study of contact-traced flights during England's containment phase
- Investigation of a cluster of adult acute hepatitis of unknown aetiology
- The practicality of using Bayesian statistical analysis for a large gastrointestinal outbreak investigation in England and Wales, Autumn 2023
- Application of a new multi-locus variable number tandem repeat analysis (MLVA) scheme for the seasonal investigation of Cryptosporidium parvum cases in Wales and northwest England, spring 2022
- Using meningococcal vaccine to reduce the burden of gonococcal infections: a mathematical modelling study
- Literature review of the evidence to determine which population groups are at highest risk of developing iGAS among close contacts of iGAS cases occurring in households and other community settings

Additional information: FS North West has been a UK FETP training site since 2012 and has hosted 9 fellows. We work closely with all three of our Health Protection Teams (HPTs) and are co-located with Cheshire and Merseyside HPT in the beautiful Cunard Building in Liverpool city centre.

South East & London Field Service

Key topic areas

Vaccine preventable disease, GI, Hepatitis, travel and migrant health, influenza and other respiratory viruses, Group A Strep, TB.

Office location: 10 S. Colonnade, Canary Wharf, London, E14 5EA

Primary Field Supervisor: Sooria Balasegaram: sooria.balasegaram@ukhsa.gov.uk

Academic links: LSHTM, Imperial, UCL, Warwick / Liverpool

Key health protection challenges

South East and London Field Service team is the busiest and largest FS team, covering an area comprising almost a third of the population of England, 16.5 million. Work is varied covering a metropolis, several cities and rural parts with extremes of deprivation and affluence including a highly mobile, multi-ethnic population with many prisons, care homes, hospitals, major UK airports and commercial seaports.

Recent projects conducted by the fellow

- Analysis of Hepatitis D national surveillance data
- Early Mpox transmission in sexual networks of gay and bisexual men in England in 2022
- Outbreak of multidrug-resistant monophasic Salmonella Typhimurium associated with chocolate products
- Diphtheria seroprevalence survey in England
- Estimating STEC clearance times in young children and risk of transmission in childcare settings
- Outbreak case study for Health Protection Teams and Public Health Registrars
- Epidemiology of Haemolytic-Uraemic Syndrome (HUS) in England, 2009 – 2023
- Description of acute gastrointestinal individual level healthcare interactions to review inequalities
- Service evaluation of administration of HNIG for measles post-exposure prophylaxis in England in 2024

Publications:

- Epidemiology of non-travel enteric fever cases in England: insights from 10 years of surveillance
- Facilitators and barriers to implementing successful exclusion among children with shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli: a qualitative analysis of public health case management records
- Field-based assessments of the seasonality of Culex pipiens sensu lato in England: an important enzootic vector of Usutu and West Nile viruses
- Salmonella Saintpaul outbreak associated with cantaloupe consumption, the United Kingdom and Portugal, September to November 2023

Additional information

We are co-located with the London Health Protection Teams. We support seven local health protection units in London and SE and also are involved in joint projects with academia, Colindale, RCE.

South West Field Service Team

Key topic areas

Field Service topic leads: National incident response, environmental epidemiology, influenza and other respiratory viruses, data science including automation and innovation, field epidemiological studies, integrated health protection surveillance

Research interests: Operational research including reactive studies, and developing tools and methodologies for field epidemiology

Office location: 2 Rivergate, Temple Quay, Bristol

Primary Field Supervisor: Matt Edmunds: matt.edmunds@ukhsa.gov.uk

Academic links: Regular teaching delivered at University of Bristol, University of West of England

Key health protection challenges

- Large area with rural and urban regions
- Zoonosis are an important public health problem
- Areas of deprivation with a high incidence of TB and sexually transmitted infections
- There are a number of prisons in the South West region

Recent projects conducted by the fellow and wider team

- Investigation into a Persistent cluster of carbapenemase-producing *Klebsiella pneumoniae*.
- Case-case study to determine factors associated with cases of hepatitis A
- Rainfall and *Cryptosporidium* infection in South West England – a time-series analysis
- Enhanced surveillance for gonococcal infections
- Development of CareOBRA reporting dashboard
- Large cohort study following *cryptosporidium* outbreak

Additional information

We are co-located with members of the South West Health Protection Team. We work closely with the Bristol Public Health Laboratory, NHS organisations and Local Authorities across the South West region. We teach on infectious disease epidemiology modules and courses at the University of Bristol and University of West England.

Thames Valley Health Protection Team (TVHPT) and Radiation, Chemical & Environmental Hazards team (RCE)

Environmental Epidemiology Team, RCE: National and international projects exploring the effect of environmental exposures on health and developing national environmental public health surveillance e.g. lead exposure in children surveillance, health effects of water fluoridation, burden of disease of carbon monoxide poisoning, chemicals in private water supplies, biomonitoring studies, health registers, climate change impacts on health. **TVHPT:** COVID-19, vaccine preventable diseases, hospital-acquired infections, TB, influenza, invasive group A streptococcus, gastro-intestinal infections, zoonoses, health inequalities, migrant health.

Office location: Chilton, near Didcot, Oxfordshire

Primary Field Supervisors: Rebecca Close rebecca.close@ukhsa.gov.uk; David Roberts david.j.roberts@ukhsa.gov.uk

Academic links: University of Oxford and HPRU links with Imperial College, LSHTM, UCL, University of Leicester, Exeter University and other universities depending upon the project.

Key health protection challenges

The Chilton site is the headquarters of RCE and the national focal point for advice and guidance for environmental public health including climate change, extreme events, toxicology, radiation and chemicals. Developing surveillance of such risks and the novel use of IT to provide access to data and intelligence is one of the key areas for environmental epidemiology. Thames Valley has a population of 2.1M and is part of UKHSA South East (8.9M people). Thames Valley is a mixture of rural and urban areas with varying degrees of deprivation making it a busy HPT team. The past two years have seen significant importation of diphtheria in persons arriving via irregular migration routes, and the resurgence of TB, measles, influenza, and group A streptococcal infections following the COVID-19 pandemic, alongside the continued threat of avian influenza.

Recent projects conducted by the fellow and wider team

- Biomonitoring and environmental sampling in Georgia to establish sources of exposure of lead in children
- Evaluation of UKHSA Environmental Public Health Surveillance System
- Identifying housing characteristics and other risk factors for the transmission of Covid-19
- Investigation of a Cryptosporidium outbreak at a petting farm
- Investigation of a national Cryptosporidium exceedance
- A pooled analysis of Covid-19 vaccine effectiveness using data from three Covid-19 vaccine effectiveness studies in eastern Europe
- A cohort study to investigate possible contamination of product lines of Bioprosthetic heart valves with *Mycobacterium chelonae*
- Investigating effects of weather on UK STEC outbreaks
- Indoor air quality: Characterizing exposures and associated health effects
- A literature review to identify themes that characterise CO exposure in household dwellings.
- Principles of outbreak investigation - Teaching for SpRs
- Developing case studies for teaching for environmental epidemiology as part of the International Health Regulations capacity building projects with Global Health

Additional information

Shared site: You will split your time between the Environmental Epidemiology team in RCE and TVHPT, whilst also maintaining close links with London and South East Field Service. You will have access to outbreaks and other projects across the South East as well as national and international projects.

74 graduated fellows

C2011



C2012



C2013



C2014



C2015



C2016



C2017



C2018



C2019



C2020



C2021



C2022



Frequently asked questions

General programme queries

Can I do the programme part time?

Unfortunately not at the moment. The programme is designed as a full-time, two-year programme.

Do I need to be currently employed by UKHSA to apply for this position?

Anyone eligible to work in the UK can apply to the programme. It is a fixed term contract for two years or an internal transfer/secondment.

Who is the UKFETP suitable for?

The UKFETP is suitable for those wishing to apply for Senior Executive Officer of Agenda for Change Band 7 (SEO/AfC Band 7) and those currently on Specialty Registrar (StR) grades and who want to develop their field epidemiology skills.

Is the salary/grade for UKFETP flexible?

Unfortunately not, we are bound by our budget. If you were successful, we would only be able to offer an SEO/AfC Band 7 salary or equivalent StR grade.

What is the average success rate for getting onto the programme?

There are usually between 150 – 250 applications annually, resulting in a success rate of 4-5% depending on the number of roles available each year.

How is the course set up?

The information you require is in the Job Purpose/Summary in the advert as well as the Job Description under Main Training Objectives and Responsibilities.

How many overnight stays are expected in the programme?

All modules are scheduled to be face to face and residential. Details of modules and their length are available on page 3 of this prospectus. Modules are also rotated around the UK. Attendance at modules is mandatory. Fellows are also expected to attend the European Scientific Conference on Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology (ESCAIDE) Conference each year which is held in a European city and therefore requires overseas travel.

Can I undertake this role virtually?

All teaching is planned as face to face and attendance is mandatory for completion of the programme. Successful fellows are expected to be physically present within their team at the appointed training site. UKHSA policy promotes a 60:40 balance (three days in office and two days at home), but there is some flexibility. Fellows can work full-time from their office base or a minimum of two days a week where circumstances necessitate.

FAQs continue overleaf

Frequently asked questions

Eligibility queries

What are the eligibility criteria for applying for UKFETP?

Essential criteria are listed in the Person Specification in the advert. You must already have completed a Master's degree or PhD in a scientific discipline with a significant health (human or animal), public health, epidemiology or data analysis component OR a minimum of four years supervised experience in Public Health, Epidemiology or Health Protection at the time of application, with evidence of publication. Demonstrable experience of working within public health, health protection or epidemiology for at least 18 months by the date of application (time spent in education including PhD studies does not qualify). Additionally, you should be able to demonstrate how the UKFETP will be of benefit to your future career.

Is there a minimum requirement for work experience in order to apply?

Yes, we expect demonstrable experience of working within public health, health protection or epidemiology for at least 18 months by the date of application. Time spent in education including PhD studies does not qualify.

I am completing my Master's this year, am I eligible to apply?

You must have achieved your Master's degree at the point of application to be eligible to apply. If you have a PhD, it doesn't matter that your Master's is still ongoing. Otherwise, we would encourage you to consider applying next year.

If my Master's is not in public health what other Master's programme would be acceptable?

Applications are considered on an individual basis. As a guide, other Master's with a public health or epidemiology content will be considered.

Can I apply to UKFETP as an infectious diseases registrar?

Provided you meet the additional criteria in the person specification in the advert, you should be fine to apply as an StR as long as you have deanery support.

Is it essential to have both a Master's and have passed parts A and B of the Faculty of Public Health examinations?

If you are a registrar you must have passed parts A and B of the FPH examinations as well as having completed a relevant Master's.

Eligibility for non-UK citizens queries

Is the programme open to non-UK citizens?

The UKFETP is open to anyone who is eligible to work in the UK.

I require Tier 2 sponsorship, can UKFETP offer this?

No, regrettably, the UKFETP is not able to offer this.

Further information regarding the eligibility of candidates to work in the UK can be found in the [Civil Service Nationality rules](#).

Frequently asked questions

I would have the right to work in the UK at the time of applying. Would it be possible to obtain a longer full-time visa once in the programme?

Please refer to the [nationality rules](#) for more information regarding eligibility.

Application queries

How could I improve my chances of a successful application?

We advise all applicants to demonstrate how they match the essential and desirable criteria of the post as detailed in the Person Specification. Providing specific examples of experience is important and outlining what you hope to gain/enthusiasm for field epidemiology is also key.

Who do I use as references in my application?

Usually it is your last three employers. However, you can give whomever you feel would be appropriate, although one must be your last employer.

Career development queries

How can I develop my skills to enable me to apply to the programme in the future?

If you read the Prospectus, Job Description and Person Specification you will get a good sense of what the role of the field epidemiologist is. It is a role which includes rapid response – to outbreak investigations or major incidents, and signals from surveillance systems. The post at present mainly deals with health protection topics. You could learn more from talking with your local health protection and field epidemiology team.

Are there any training schemes which would support me through a postgraduate qualification in public health/epidemiology?

Higher specialist training in public health (check the [Faculty of Public Health website](#) for more information) is the only training scheme that would incorporate a Master's degree to our knowledge.

How can I gain more experience in epidemiology?

In order to gain experience in epidemiology, look out for jobs in UKHSA, Public Health Wales or the Public Health Agency of Northern Ireland. Relevant experience may also be gained in academia or public health organisations. You could also set up alerts for jobs in NHS Jobs and Health Jobs UK using terms such as “information officer”, “epidemiological scientist”, or “epidemiology”.

About the UK Health Security Agency

UKHSA is responsible for protecting every member of every community from the impact of infectious diseases, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents and other health threats. We provide intellectual, scientific and operational leadership at national and local level, as well as on the global stage, to make the nation health secure.

[UKHSA](#) is an executive agency, sponsored by the [Department of Health and Social Care](#).

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-health-security-agency

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