UK Health Security Agency

A TEPHINET-ACCREDITED PROGRAM

UKFETP
Field Epidemiology Training Programme

UK Field Epidemiology Training Programme Prospectus

2027










An introduction to the two-year programme for prospective applicants

Welcome to the UK Field Epidemiology Training Programme

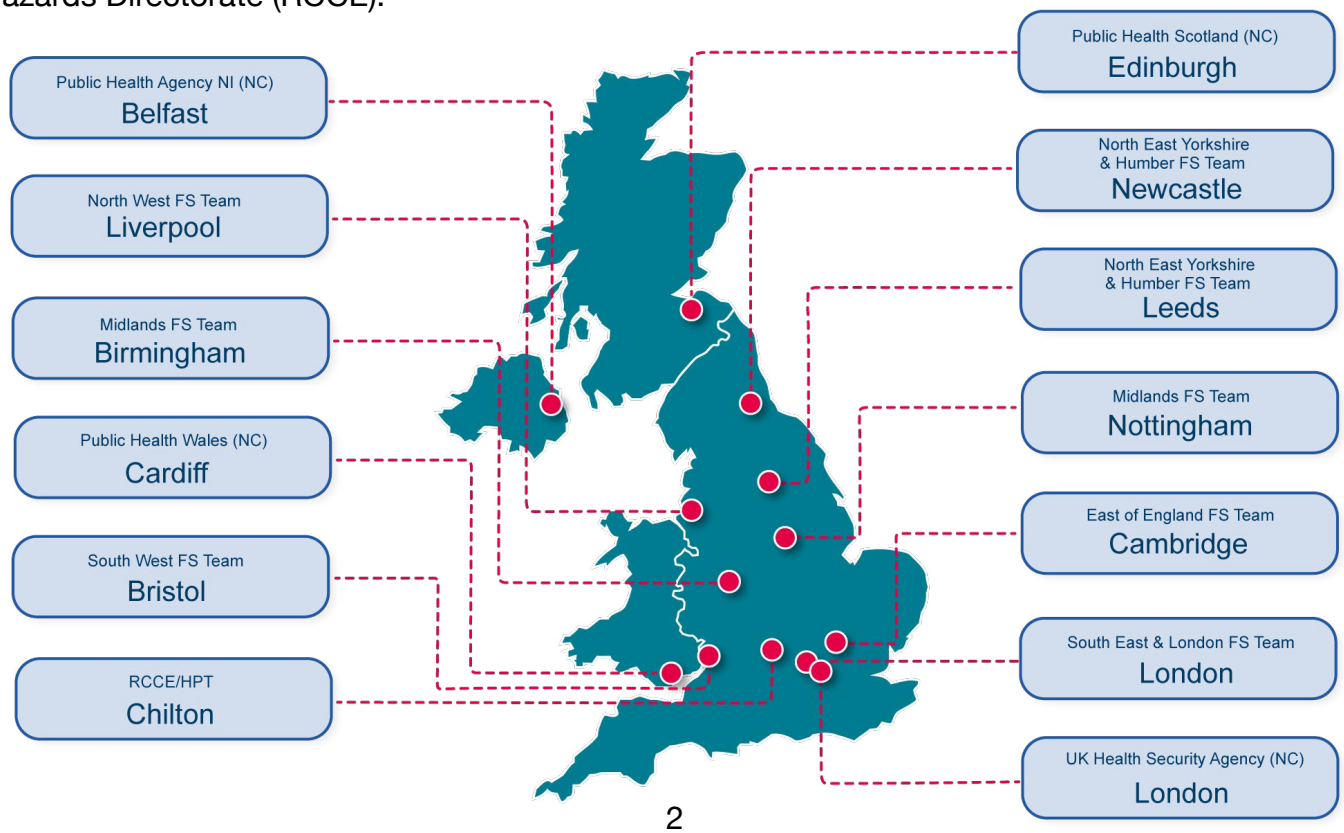
The UK Field Epidemiology Training Programme (UKFETP) is a full-time two-year fellowship programme which provides training and practical experience in intervention epidemiology and aims to develop specialist field epidemiology skills. The UKFETP has been modelled on the Epidemic Intelligence Service (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 other FETPs delivered globally. The UKFETP is 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, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Training sites

There are currently 11 sites across 13 locations, which includes national centres (NC) in England, Wales, Scotland 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 the Radiation, Chemicals, Climate and Environmental Hazards Directorate (RCCE).



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 other FETPs delivered globally.
- 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

<table>
<tr><td colspan="2">Introductory course</td><td colspan="2">Microbiology for Epidemiologists</td><td colspan="2">Outbreak</td><td>Sampling</td></tr>
<tr><td>Research</td><td>Multivariable Analysis</td><td colspan="2">Time Series Analysis</td><td colspan="2">Scientific Communication</td><td>Project Review (x2)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Environmental Epidemiology</td><td>Vaccinology</td><td>Epidemiology in Emergencies</td><td colspan="2">Epidemiology in Healthcare Settings</td><td>Qualitative Methods</td><td>Teaching</td></tr>
</table>

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
7. **Primary data collection**: Undertake primary data collection in at least one project

Recruitment

Recruitment timetable

December/January:
Recruitment opens

May:
Face to face interviews

September:
Start of fellowship



Three members of Cohort 2026 presenting

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



An exercise to help understand the whole genome sequencing process

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.



A group exercise at the Microbiology for Epidemiologists module

Why do UKFETP?

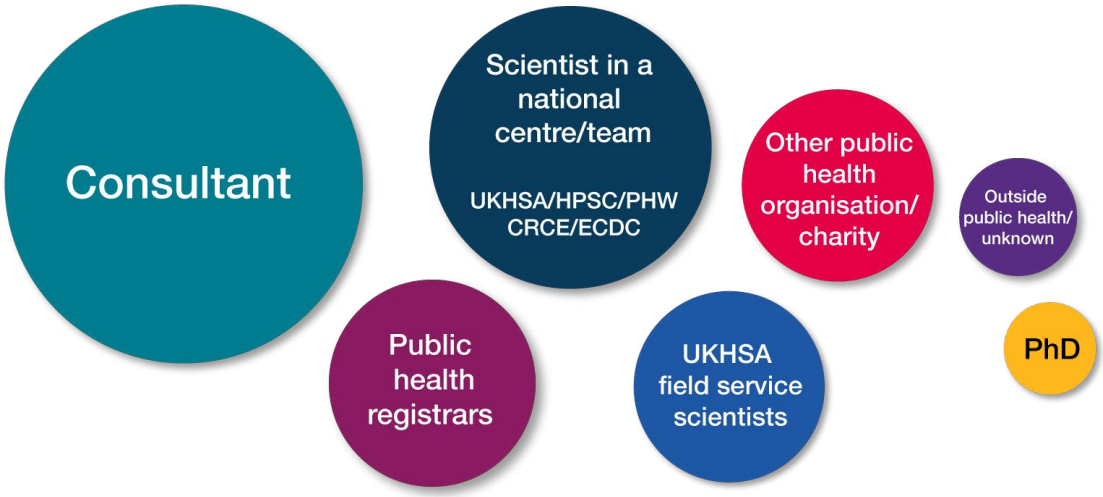
The UKFETP is postgraduate level training aligned with other accredited FETP programmes delivered worldwide. The two-year fellowship will enable development, focusing on your individual training needs through on-the-job supervision. You will experience significant personal and professional growth and 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 2026.

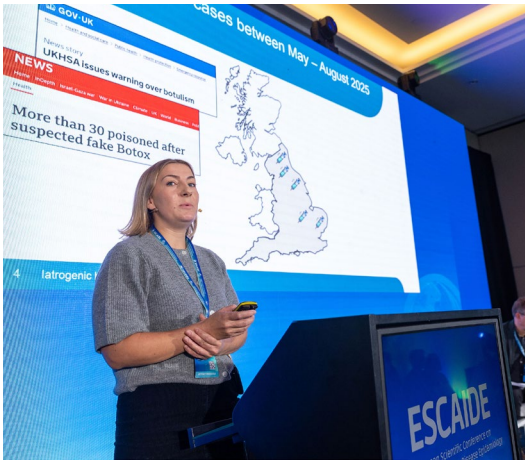


From 2011 to the end of 2026:

92 Graduated fellows
16 Fellows in the programme

Fellows' achievements over the last year

23 Peer-reviewed papers published
17 Oral presentations at national and international scientific conferences
7 Poster presentations at national and international scientific conferences
7 International assignments



Katie Wrenn from Cohort 2024 presenting at the ESCAIDE Conference 2025

Recent cohort highlights



New UKFETP graduates at graduation evening, September 2026

Recent examples of FETP fellow projects

Outbreaks:

- Large outbreak of group B invasive meningococcal disease in young adults in South East England, March 2026
- Public health response to a symptomatic human of H5N1 avian influenza in the West Midlands, January 2025
- Measles outbreak in Bristol, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire, November 2024 - May 2025
- Outbreak of iatrogenic botulism associated with cosmetic injections of botulinum toxin-containing products



Fariya Abdullahi from Cohort 2024 is presented with her graduation certificate from Susan Hopkins, Chief Executive Officer at UKHSA

Surveillance:

- Enhanced surveillance of *Trichophyton indotineae* in London
- Malaria in the UK: capture-recapture study
- Evaluation of Lyme disease data in England for national surveillance & enhanced analysis
- Evaluation of the critical care bloodstream infection surveillance system, England, 2017-2023



Amreet Battu from Cohort 2024 is presented with her graduation certificate from Susan Hopkins, Chief Executive Officer at UKHSA

Fellow projects continue overleaf

Recent cohort highlights

Research:

- Research into spatial data use for legionella and dengue outbreak response
- Non-toxigenic diphtheria incident response: prevalence study of carriage in people experiencing homelessness
- Retrospective Market Panel Controls in Foodborne Outbreak Case-Control Studies: Comparing Analytical Outcomes Across Two Investigations
- Serosurveillance of Usutu virus exposure in humans in England

Teaching:

- UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs) Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) surveillance training course
- Health Equity Evaluation Framework training for UKHSA
- Learning Needs Assessment for the Global Health Protection directorate relating to public health communication

International missions:

- WHO/GOARN deployment: Multi-Country Ebola response (South Sudan BVD preparedness)
- Qualitative Exploratory Sub-Study within the HEV Integrated Surveillance Project (Diffa, Niger)
- Epidemiology, seasonality and outcomes of RSV, influenza and SARS-CoV-2 among children aged 0-23 months hospitalized with Severe Acute Respiratory Infection: a pooled analysis using data from the EuroSAVE network
- Hantavirus incident response and subsequent cohort study to investigate risk factors for hantavirus transmission on board the M/V Hondius







In 2025, Cohort 2023 fellow Abbie Harrison undertook a deployment to Democratic Republic of Congo in response to a mpox outbreak

Training sites

There are currently 11 sites across 13 locations.
Find out more about the sites in the following pages

Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre (CDSC), Public Health Wales

Key topic areas:

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.

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

Lead 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. OneHealth (Bangor/Cardiff)

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
- Reporting and modelling impacts of respiratory infections; pandemic planning
- 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 fellows & wider team

- Malaria capture-recapture study
- Serosurveillance for vaccine-preventable diseases
- Lessons learned for farm visits from a cryptosporidium outbreak
- Large-scale data linkage to estimate mumps vaccine effectiveness
- Predictors of poor outcomes in Tuberculosis, and late diagnosis in HIV
- C. difficile mortality determinants and timing of genomically-linked cases
- Impact of maternal RSV vaccination programme
- Investigating the post-pandemic rise in gonorrhoea diagnoses observed in Wales
- Evaluation of community screening for blood-borne viruses in people with links to high-prevalence countries

Additional information

CDSC Wales has been an EPIET training site since 1996, and a UKFETP site since 2019. CDSC offers opportunities across the breadth of health protection, including policy through work with Welsh Government and other partners. We work closely with infection services, genomics, and programmes such as sexual health and vaccine preventable diseases.

Clinical & Protecting Health Directorate, Public Health Scotland

Key topic areas:

Health protection surveillance and field epidemiology, sexually transmitted infections and bloodborne viruses; respiratory infections; vaccine preventable diseases; gastrointestinal, emerging and zoonotic infections; public health microbiology; genomic epidemiology; environmental public health.

Office location: Bothwell Street, Glasgow / South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh

Lead Primary Field Supervisor: Caoimhe McKerr: caoimhe.mckerr@phs.scot

Academic links: University of Strathclyde, Glasgow Caledonia University, University of Glasgow – honorary contracts, University of Edinburgh, University of Highlands and Islands, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, IMPACT, Scottish Pandemic Sciences Partnership

Key health protection challenges

The key health protection challenges in Scotland centre on infectious diseases, environmental threats, and systemic pressures:

- Infectious diseases & AMR: Managing emerging pathogens, rising STI rates, and growing antimicrobial resistance
- Health inequalities: Addressing stalled life expectancy and high drug-related mortality, which heavily impact deprived communities
- Vaccination coverage: Sustaining equitable, high-uptake immunisation programs to prevent outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases
- Climate & environment: Tackling threats like extreme weather and pollution, which disproportionately affect vulnerable populations
- System resilience: Strengthening pandemic preparedness, laboratory data and integration of pathogen genomics, surveillance systems and methods, and 'one-health' integrated approaches

Recent projects conducted by recent fellows & wider team

Previous Frontline FETP

- Descriptive epi of acute hep B enhanced surveillance data
- Measles outbreak with limited chain of transmission
- Enhanced surveillance of meningococcal disease

Upcoming Surveillance team

- Cross-cutting syndromic surveillance development and evaluation
- NOIDs surveillance - development and evaluation of reporting
- Epi Forum (co-led with FET): development and evaluation of practical epidemiology teaching and best practice

Upcoming Field epi team

- Rapid epidemiological assessment plans for investigation of significant incidents
- Development of standardised epi tools and REDCap resource library for analytical support
- Application of genomics to outbreak epidemiology (PH micro)
- Ongoing support to various incidents and outbreaks including; Salmonella, mpox, Hantavirus, Hep A, and Measles

Additional information: Pre-pandemic PHS (then HPS) was part of EPIET. Public Health Scotland's aim is to re-establish participation in internationally recognised and accredited field epidemiology training. We are committed to strengthening epidemiological capacity. Both supervisors are former EPIET/UKFETP fellows and other former fellows and educators work at PHS.

East of England Field Service team, UKHSA

Key topic areas:

Migrant health, group A streptococcus, emerging infections and zoonoses, gastrointestinal infections, healthcare-associated infections & antimicrobial resistance, tuberculosis, sexual health.

Office location: Forvie Site, Institute of Public Health, Cambridge Biomedical Campus

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

Academic links: Cambridge University / University of East Anglia

Key health protection challenges

East of England has a population of approximately 6.6 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 challenges include:

- Group A Streptococcus clusters in care home, district nursing and primary care settings
- TB outbreaks in various settings, including prisons, asylum seeker accommodation and a factory. 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

- 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 study of Usutu virus exposure in zoo workers in England
- Outbreak investigation including case-control study of national outbreaks of Salmonella Blockley and Salmonella St Paul
- Outbreak investigation including case-control study of a regional cluster of iatrogenic botulism cases following botox-like injections
- Learning needs assessment on health care epidemiology amongst East of England Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) Teams

Additional information

The FS team is co-located with part of the East of England Health Protection Team. The East of England Health Protection Team and FS team work closely together, with several joint meetings and projects set up. We have a strong focus on wellbeing activities within our team including book club, craft club, bake off, sweep stakes and wellbeing walks.

Midlands Field Service team (Birmingham and Nottingham), UKHSA

Key topic areas:

Data science and artificial intelligence, healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial resistance, Influenza and other respiratory diseases, Legionellosis, sexual health, Hepatitis, Tuberculosis, operational research.

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

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

Academic links: University of Warwick, University of Nottingham. The UKHSA Birmingham office is also home to the UKHSA real-time syndromic surveillance team which also offers the opportunity for collaboration.

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

- Evaluation of National Enhances Legionella Surveillance System
- Supporting national investigation into an outbreak of iatrogenic botulism
- Investigation including analytical epidemiology into outbreak of Salmonella Typhimurium in Leicester and Leicestershire
- Investigation including analytical epidemiology into GI outbreak at a wedding in West Midlands
- Research looking at readiness for AI within a UK public health institute field epidemiology service
- Surveillance evaluation of the West Midlands syphilis enhanced surveillance system
- Research examining the association between syndromic urinary tract infection indicators and meteorological variables
- Research with WHO investigating the burden of and attitudes about Long COVID in healthcare workers in the WHO European Region.

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 20 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.

Health Protection Surveillance and Epidemiology Team, Public Health Agency, Northern Ireland

Key topic areas:

The Public Health Agency, Northern Ireland (NI), is a National Centre involved in: local and national surveillance of communicable disease, field investigation of outbreaks, multi-professional training in epidemiology, audit of communicable disease control and support to the NI Department of Health.

Office location: 12-22 Linenhall Street, Belfast, Northern Ireland

Lead 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
- Hepatitis C incidence in Northern Ireland continues to increase despite elimination work
- Responding to new intelligence needs, such as routinely integrating pathogen genomics into surveillance and epidemiology work, and developing new systems in response to changing climate and environmental factors
- Expanding the type and depth of intelligence that we produce in surveillance systems by using system-wide pseudonymised electronic healthcare record data

Recent projects conducted by the fellow & wider team

- Outbreak of healthcare-associated Burkholderia cepacia, Northern Ireland, 2025
- Evaluation of wastewater-based surveillance of influenza A, SARS-CoV-2 and poliovirus, Northern Ireland
- A rapidly developing outbreak of clade Ib mpox among gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men associated with severe proctitis, Northern Ireland, June 2026
- Effectiveness of the influenza and RSV vaccines and duration of protection against hospitalisation
- Tuberculosis transmission within a complex social network: insights from a prolonged outbreak investigation
- Evaluation of Hepatitis B surveillance in Northern Ireland, 2020 - 2025
- Health Protection Consultant Learning Needs Assessment, 2026
- Developing a National General Practice In-Hours Syndromic Surveillance System for Northern Ireland

Additional information

We have a small team of surveillance and epidemiological scientists providing infectious disease surveillance and epidemiology for NI. We are developing our knowledge and skills with a comprehensive CPD programme and embedding modern data science techniques. We work closely with the national health protection team to prevent harm from all-hazards.

National Infections teams, UKHSA

Key topic areas:

Vaccine preventable diseases, respiratory infections (including influenza), emerging and zoonotic infections, travel health, gastrointestinal infections, healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial resistance, sexual transmitted infections, HIV and blood-borne viruses.

Office location: Colindale Avenue, London / 10 South Colonnade, Canary Wharf, London

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

Academic links: University College London, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Imperial College London, University of Oxford

Key health protection challenges

- Responding to national and multi-regional outbreaks of infectious diseases
- Developing, implementing and evaluating national vaccination programmes
- Eliminating viral hepatitis
- Mitigating risk of antimicrobial resistance and health and care associated infections
- Developing, implementing and evaluating national infectious disease surveillance systems
- Reducing the burden of seasonal respiratory viruses
- Preparing for and responding to the emerging threat of vector borne diseases to the UK
- Responding to High Consequence Infectious Disease (HCID) incidents
- Strengthening pandemic preparedness

Recent projects conducted by the fellow

Surveillance:
- Development of national enhanced surveillance of Dengue
- Evaluation of national surveillance for infections in Intensive Care units
- Factors associated with chemsex in in England
- Enhancing Surveillance of HCAI/AMR incidents, outbreaks and clusters

Research:
- Monitoring the impact of doxycycline post-exposure prophylaxis (DoxyPEP) on bacterial STIs transmitted infections
- Non-toxigenic diphtheria incident response: prevalence study of carriage in people experiencing homelessness
- Necrotising Pneumonia in the UK: A descriptive evaluation

Additional information

This placement provides exceptional opportunities to contribute to UKHSA national health protection priorities and in incident response. The CMA group comprises several divisions and multiple expert teams offering a diverse range of project across all FETP competency areas and opportunity to work with leaders and stakeholders at national level.

North East and Yorkshire & Humber Field Service team (Newcastle and Leeds), UKHSA

Key topic areas:

Hepatitis & blood safety, HIV & sexually transmitted infections, tuberculosis, healthcare-associated infections & antimicrobial resistance, global health.

Office location: Civic Centre, Newcastle; Quarry House, Leeds

Lead 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 Bloodborne Viruses & Sexually Transmitted Infections.

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
- Estimating bloodborne virus prevalence and associated risk factors through routine opt-out emergency department testing
- Investigation of COVID-19 transmission during the first community outbreak in a remote island population, Falkland Islands, April-June 2022
- 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
- Factors associated with late HIV diagnosis in England
- International travel as a risk factor for gastrointestinal infections in residents of NE England
- COVID-19 cluster surveillance using exposure data collected during contact tracing

Additional information

We are co-located and work closely with the North East and Yorkshire & Humber Health Protection Teams, allowing for early involvement of FS colleagues in outbreaks and incidents. A Consultant in Public Health Infection is based in the office. The North East has a bespoke surveillance system providing unique data.

North West Field Service Team, UKHSA

Key topic areas:

Data science, healthcare associated infections & AMR, streptococcal and staphylococcal infections, gastrointestinal infections, Incident Response Improvement Group

Office location: Cunard Building, Liverpool

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

Academic links: University of Liverpool, University of Manchester, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Lancaster University, Liverpool John Moore University, 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: North West residents are 1.3 times more likely to be admitted to hospital for an infectious disease compared to the England population
- 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 region

Recent projects conducted by the fellow & wider team

- Infant Gram-negative bloodstream infections in England, 2011-2019: A population-based study
- CPE outbreak investigation at a Liverpool Hospital Trust
- Evaluation of targeted time-limited enhanced surveillance for berry-related Hepatitis A infections in England
- Investigation of a cluster of adult acute hepatitis of unknown aetiology
- Factors associated with death among those undergoing treatment for tuberculosis in North West England, 2012-2022
- The practicality of using Bayesian statistical analysis for a large gastrointestinal outbreak investigation in England and Wales, Autumn 2023
- Application of a new 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

Additional information

FS North West has been a UKFETP training site since 2012 and has hosted 11 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 on the Liverpool waterfront.

South East and London Field Service team, UKHSA

Key topic areas:

Tuberculosis, vaccine preventable diseases, CIMS, surveillance committee, gastrointestinal infections, streptococcal infections

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

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

Academic links: London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), Imperial College, University College London (UCL), University of East Anglia (UEA)

Key health protection challenges

South East and London Field Service team (FS SEaL) is the largest FS team, covering an area which contains close to a third of England's population, around 19 million people. The team covers London and surrounding densely population urban areas as well as very rural areas. Populations are highly mobile, highly diverse and span extremes of deprivation and affluence. London and the SE regions contain all major settings, including large prisons, care homes, hospitals, major UK airports and commercial seaports.

Key challenges include Tuberculosis, Sexually Transmitted Infections, gastrointestinal infections and invasive Group A streptococcal infections.

Recent projects conducted by the fellow

- Emergence and Epidemiology of Trichophyton indotineae in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland, 2017–2025
- A comparison of using online market panel members and traditional epidemiology methods in control recruitment for a case-control study during a national outbreak of STEC O145, United Kingdom
- Invasive Group A Streptococcal infection associated with Community Healthcare Services Delivered at Home, South-East England, December 2021-2023: descriptive epidemiological study
- Enhanced Surveillance of non-outbreak cases of Candidozyma Auris in patients in England, 2025-2026
- 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

Additional information

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

South West Field Service Team, UKHSA

Key topic areas:

National incident response, environmental epidemiology, influenza and other respiratory viruses, data science including automaton and innovation, field epidemiological studies, integrated health protection surveillance, operational research and developing epidemiological tools.

Office location: 2 Rivergate, Temple Quay, Bristol

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

Academic links: Teaching and collaboration with the University of Bristol and University of West of England

Key health protection challenges

- Large area with rural and urban regions
- Environmental and zoonotic health protection issues, particularly those associated with rural / coastal areas
- Older population in many local areas, with higher prevalence of chronic disease, increasing vulnerability to infectious disease and environmental exposures
- Working with stretched front line health services to maintain robust surveillance systems
- 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

- Development of National Field Services Surveillance Protocol for Invasive Group A Streptococcus
- Analytical studies investigating PVL risk factors and decolonisation protocols in military settings
- Epidemiological support for highly resistant community-associated MRSA cluster
- Development of automated process for TB Cohort Review Report production
- Development of CareOBRA respiratory reporting dashboard
- Enhanced surveillance for gonococcal infections
- 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) UKHSA South East, and Environmental Epidemiology Team, UKHSA

Key topic areas:

Environmental Epidemiology: Effects of environmental exposures and developing surveillance e.g. lead exposure, water fluoridation, biomonitoring studies. TVHPT: Vaccine preventable diseases, hospital-acquired infections, TB, iGAS, gastrointestinal infections, inequality & migrant health.

Office location: Chilton, near Didcot, Oxfordshire

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

Academic links:
Environmental Epidemiology: University of Oxford, LSHTM, UCL, Exeter University, Imperial College London, University of Leicester. and other universities depending upon the project.
TVHPT: Service improvement projects with Kings College London and University of Bristol.

Key health protection challenges

Chilton is the headquarters of Radiation, Chemicals, Climate and Environmental Hazards Directorate (RCCE) 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 key for environmental epidemiology.
Thames Valley (population of 2.3M) is part of UKHSA South East (9.6M people). Thames Valley is a busy HPT with a mixture of rural and urban and varying degrees of deprivation. Recent years have seen significant importation of diphtheria in persons arriving via irregular migration routes, resurgence of TB, measles and group A streptococcal infections following the pandemic, alongside the continued threat of avian influenza.

Recent projects conducted by the fellow & wider team

Environmental Epidemiology:

- Biomonitoring and environmental sampling in Georgia to establish sources of exposure of lead in children
- Evaluation of UKHSA Environmental Public Health Surveillance System
- Developing case studies for teaching for environmental epidemiology as part of the International Health Regulations projects with Global Health
- Analysis of carbon monoxide mortality data to understand the reasons and sources of exposure

TVHPT:

- Enhanced surveillance pilot for cryptosporidiosis in London and South East England
- Ascertainment of inclusion health risk factors among invasive Group A Streptococcal disease cases using linked surveillance and healthcare data
- Health equity learning needs assessment for UKHSA's Health Protection in the Regions Directorate
- Health Equity Evaluation Framework training for Health Protection Teams

Additional information

Shared site: You will split your time between the Environmental Epidemiology team in RCCE 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.will have access to outbreaks and other projects across the South East as well as national and international projects.

92 graduated fellows

C2011 

C2012 

C2013 

C2014 

C2015 

C2016 

C2017 

C2018 

C2019 

C2020 

C2021 

C2022 

C2023 

C2024 

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 and meet the Civil Service nationality rules. 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 the Faculty of Public Health Diplomate Examination (DFPH) formerly Part A and the Final Membership Examination (MFPH) formerly part B 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. Candidates must also meet the Civil Service nationality rules.

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

© Crown copyright 2026
Published: December 2026

OGL

You may re-use this information (excluding logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0. To view this licence, visit OGL or email psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk. Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

UK Health Security Agency supports the Sustainable Development Goals

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS