ICR The Institute of Cancer Research

Research Data Officer (Epidemiology)

Candidate Information

Date: May 2026

The Institute of Cancer Research

About our organisation

We are one of the world's most influential cancer research institutes with an outstanding record of achievement dating back more than 100 years. We are world leaders in identifying cancer genes, discovering cancer drugs and developing precision radiotherapy. Together with our hospital partner The Royal Marsden, we are rated in the top four centres for cancer research and treatment worldwide. As well as being a world-class institute, we are a college of the University of London.

We came second in the league table of university research quality compiled from the Research Excellence Framework (REF 2021). We have charitable status and rely on support from partner organisations, charities, donors and the general public. We have more than 1000 staff and postgraduate students across three sites – in Chelsea and Sutton.

About the Team and the Generations Study

The Integrative Epidemiology Team at The Institute of Cancer Research (ICR; https://www.icr.ac.uk/research-and-discoveries/icr-divisions/genetics-and-epidemiology/integrative-cancer-epidemiology/) uses large-scale population data to investigate the causes of cancer, understand carcinogenic processes, and improve risk prediction for precision prevention. The team is part of the Cancer Epidemiology and Prevention Research Unit (CEPRU; https://www.cepru.ac.uk/), a joint initiative between the ICR and Imperial College London focused on advancing cancer epidemiology through interdisciplinary research and training.

A central resource for the team is the Breast Cancer Now Generations Study (https://thegenerationsstudy.co.uk/), a national cohort of over 110,000 women in the UK followed since 2004. This study includes

Candidate Information
Research Data Officer (Epidemiology)

detailed information on lifestyle and reproductive factors, blood samples for biomarker and genetic analyses, tumour pathology and mammography imaging data, and linkages to national health records. The programme also uses data from international consortia and complementary studies to advance understanding of cancer aetiology, risk and early detection.

Research in the team combines epidemiology and biostatistics with emerging approaches in data science, including analyses of mammography and pathology images and integration of multi-modal data. This work aims to improve our understanding of cancer causes, risk stratification and to inform prevention strategies at both population and individual levels.

This post offers an excellent opportunity for a researcher to contribute to the development of high-quality, research-ready datasets for large-scale epidemiological studies, using modern data methods and FAIR principles within a multidisciplinary environment.

Our mission is to make the discoveries that defeat cancer.

Candidate Information
Research Data Officer (Epidemiology)

Our values

The ICR has a highly skilled and committed workforce, with a wide variety of roles, each requiring different skills. But whether you work as a researcher, or work as part of our corporate team, your work and behaviour is underpinned by these six values. They are what bring us together as one team - as 'One ICR'.

Pursuing excellence

We aspire to excellence in everything we do, and aim to be leaders in our field.

Acting with Integrity

We promote an open and honest environment that gives credit and acknowledges mistakes, so that our actions stand up to scrutiny.

Valuing all our people

We value the contribution of all our people, help them reach their full potential, and treat everyone with kindness and respect.

Working together

We collaborate with colleagues and partners to bring together different skills, resources and perspectives.

Leading innovation

We do things differently in ways that no one else has done before, and share the expertise and learning we gain.

Making a difference

We all play our part, doing a little bit more, a little bit better, to help improve the lives of people with cancer.

Our values set out how each of us at the ICR, works together to meet our mission – to make the discoveries that defeat cancer. *They summarise our desired behaviours, attitudes and culture – how we value one another and how we take pride in the work we do, to deliver impact for people with cancer and their loved ones."*

Professor Kristian Helin
Chief Executive

Candidate Information

Research Data Officer in Epidemiology

Description

Department / division:	Integrative Cancer Epidemiology/Division of Genetics and Epidemiology
Pay grade / staff group:	Analytical Scientist (AS2); Salary range: £39,805 - £50,862
Hours / duration:	Full time (35 hours per week), Monday to Friday. Fixed term contract for 2 years in the first instance, with a view to extension subject to funding.
Reports to:	Professor Montserrat Garcia-Closas
Main purpose of the job:	We are seeking an experienced Research Data Officer to lead the development of high-quality, research-ready datasets for large-scale, integrative epidemiological research within the Generations Study. This role focuses on transforming complex, multi-modal data (including questionnaire, clinical, imaging, and biomarker data), using modern data methods following FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) principles to enable robust, reproducible research. This is an excellent opportunity for candidates interested in using innovative data-driven approaches, working closely with epidemiologists, data engineers, data scientists and biostatisticians, contributing to high-impact research on cancer risk and prevention.

Candidate Information

Research Data Officer in Epidemiology

Duties and responsibilities:

Key Duties and Responsibilities

Research data curation, quality, and visualisation • Develop and apply in-depth knowledge of the data, including study design, data provenance, and variable definitions, to ensure datasets are scientifically valid, interpretable, and fit for epidemiological analysis • Develop and implement data extraction, transformation and loading (ETL) procedures, including data validation and quality control procedures • Maintain clear metadata and documentation to support transparency, reproducibility and re-use. • Contribute to the implementation of FAIR data principles across study datasets and procedures • Develop interactive dashboards and tools for data exploration, visualisation and cohort selection
Research support and contribution • Work closely with data engineers to support data ingestion, structuring, and storage • Collaborate with analysts and researchers to understand analytical needs and ensure datasets are fit for purpose • Act as a bridge between technical and scientific teams to enable efficient, reliable and reproducible data use • Develop pseudonymised research ready datasets for internal and external collaborations • Contribute to reports, presentations, and scientific publications as appropriate
Development and innovation • Engage with emerging best practices in research data management, data science, and epidemiology • Contribute to the development of scalable and sustainable data infrastructure for large-scale epidemiological studies • Participate in relevant training and collaborative initiatives in data science and epidemiological research

General

All staff must ensure that they familiarise themselves with and adhere to any ICR policies that are relevant to their work and that all personal and sensitive personal data is treated with the utmost confidentiality and in line with the General Data Protection Regulations
Any other duties that are consistent with the nature and grade of the post that may be required.
To work in accordance with the ICR's Values.
To promote a safe, healthy and fair environment for people to work, where bullying and harassment will not be tolerated.
This job description is a reflection of the present position and is subject to review and alteration in detail and emphasis in the light of future changes or development.

Workforce Agreement

Candidate Information

Research Data Officer in Epidemiology

Person specification

Education and Knowledge

MSc in epidemiology, data science, biostatistics, or a related quantitative field	Essential
Experience working with complex, epidemiological datasets, including programming for data manipulation (R, Python, others)	Essential
Strong understanding of data structures and data management in research settings, with attention to data quality, documentation, and reproducibility	Essential
Familiarity with UK health research governance frameworks, including data access agreements, data sharing protocols, and ethical requirements for working with identifiable or pseudonymised participant data	Desirable

Skills

Understanding of epidemiological study designs, particularly cohort studies, and experience working with population-based research data	Essential
Advanced programming skills in R and Python for data wrangling and analysis, and strong SQL skills for querying and extracting data from relational databases	Essential
Experience handling sensitive personal data in a research context, with working knowledge of data governance requirements including GDPR and information governance frameworks relevant to health research	Essential
Ability to work effectively across technical and scientific teams, translating analytical needs into structured data solutions	Essential
Excellent organisational, problem-solving, and communication skills, with the ability to manage multiple tasks and priorities	Essential
Demonstrated experience developing reproducible data workflows and pipelines to generate research-ready datasets	Essential
Familiarity with research data infrastructure, FAIR data principles, and innovative approaches to managing large-scale, multi-modal datasets	Essential
Experience developing interactive data visualisation tools or dashboards (e.g. R Shiny, Python Dash, or equivalent) for data exploration and cohort selection | Desirable	Desirable
Experience with cloud-based data storage and analytics environments (e.g. Azure Cloud platforms)	Desirable
Familiarity with secure data environments or Trusted Research Environments (TREs) for accessing sensitive health data	Desirable

Candidate Information
Research Data Officer in Epidemiology

Benefits

We offer a fantastic working environment, great opportunities for career development and the chance to make a real difference to defeat cancer. We aim to recruit and develop the best – the most outstanding scientists and clinicians, and the most talented professional and administrative staff.

The annual leave entitlement for full time employees is 28 days per annum on joining. This will increase by a further day after 2 years' and 5 years' service.

Staff membership to the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) is available. The USS is a defined benefit scheme and provides a highly competitive pension scheme with robust benefits. The rate of contributions is determined by USS and details of the costs and benefits of this scheme can be found on their website. If staff are transferring from the NHS, they can opt to remain members of the NHS Pension Scheme.

We offer a range of family friendly benefits such as flexible working, a parents' group, and a maternity mentoring scheme. Other great benefits include interest free loans for discounted season tickets for travel and bicycle purchases, access to the NHS discounts website, a free and confidential Employee Assistance Programme which offers a range of well-being, financial and legal advice services, two staff restaurants, and access to a gym and sporting facilities at our Sutton site.

Further information

You may contact Professor Montserrat Garcia-Closas for further information by emailing montse.garcia-closas01@icr.ac.uk This job description is a reflection of the current position and is subject to review and alteration in detail and emphasis in the light of future changes or development.