LOCAL RECRUITMENT
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

RESEARCH OFFICER

(CTC - Consultant)

Organizational Unit : United Nations University-International Institute for Global Health (UNU-IIGH)

Reference Number : 2018/UNU/IIGH/CTC/RA/87

Applications to : By Post:
Director
United Nations University-International Institute for Global Health
HUKM Complex
Jalan Yaacob Latiff Bandar Tun Razak, Cheras 56000 Kuala Lumpur

By Fax: 03 9171 5402

By Email: recruit.iigh@unu.edu and nicola.pocock@unu.edu
(All applications will be acknowledged)

Closing Date : 26 November 2018

About UN University
For the past four decades, UNU has been a go-to think tank for impartial research on the pressing global problems of human survival, conflict prevention, development, and welfare. With more than 400 researchers in 13 countries, UNU’s work spans the full breadth of the 17 SDGs, generating policy-relevant knowledge to effect positive global change. UNU maintains more than 200 collaborations with UN agencies and leading universities and research institutions across the globe. For more information, please visit http://unu.edu.

United Nations University – International Institute for Global Health (UNU-IIGH):
UNU-IIGH is one of 14 research and training centres that comprise the UNU system. As a UN think tank, the mission of UNU-IIGH is to build knowledge and capacity for decision-making by UN agencies, programmes and member states about global health issues. The aim is to contribute to the development and strengthening of health services policy frameworks and management actions, particularly for people in developing countries, and to support implementation of promotive and preventive approaches to human health. The UNU-IIGH’s research and capacity building in global
health relates specifically to informing the policy debates and directions that ensure that in keeping
with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) "no one is left behind".

For more information please visit http://iigh.unu.edu

**Project title: Health system cultural competency and financing for migrant service use in Thailand and Malaysia: a comparative study**

Malaysia and Thailand are major destination countries for low-skilled migrants working mainly in
construction, agriculture, manufacturing and services and domestic work. Malaysia hosts an
estimated 4-6 million documented and undocumented migrant workers from Indonesia, Bangladesh,
Nepal and Myanmar, while Thailand hosts around 4-5 million migrants, mainly from neighbouring
countries Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar (CLM), of whom 1-2.5 million are estimated to be irregular
migrants working in the informal economy. Both countries host significant refugee populations
(150,000 in Malaysia, 100,000 in Thailand) mainly from Myanmar, and are destination countries for
human trafficking. Despite large numbers of migrants in both countries, we know little about how
healthcare providers are responding to the challenges posed by this changing patient demographic.

This research project examines cultural competence and financing of health systems for both
documented and undocumented migrants in Thailand and Malaysia. The objectives are to:

1. Design a conceptual framework for a culturally competent health system for migrant service
   use in the Thai/Malaysian context, grounded in systems thinking;
2. Identify promising prejudice reduction interventions that could be realized in Thailand and
   Malaysia;
3. Describe and compare supportive system features in both countries, including cultural
   competency and migrant health financing;
4. Compare qualitative findings of health workers’ attitudes and behaviours towards migrants
   in both countries.

In qualitative work in Malaysia, we will explore how interpretation services with migrants are
currently being conducted and how healthcare is financed for both documented and undocumented
migrants. This component will involve interviews with health workers, hospital administrators,
migrant health patient coordinators at NGOs, employers and policymakers, at research sites across
the Klang Valley and/or Johor or Penang.

We are seeking a Research Officer to support research and coordination activities with partners in
Malaysia and Thailand, and to conduct research for the Malaysia component. We are looking for a
self-motivated individual with experience in leading qualitative research projects, ideally related to
migrant and refugee health.

**Responsibilities**
The Research Officer will be based at UNU-IIGH and will be primarily supervised by the coordinating
PI, Dr. Nicola Pocock. Responsibilities will include, but are not limited to:

- Design and input to qualitative data collection tools;
- Organizing and conducting qualitative interviews with stakeholders, including seeking
  relevant MOH approvals as needed;
- Transcription of interview transcripts from Malay to English, conducting or overseeing
  translation of transcripts;
- Translation of policy documents and circulars from Malay to English;
- Conducting qualitative data analysis in NVivo;
• Drafting manuscripts and policy briefs;
• Organizing a joint analysis meeting with Thai partners in 2019;
• Organizing a dissemination meeting with Malaysian partners and stakeholders in 2019;
• Conducting searches and tasks for a systematic or umbrella review of prejudice reduction interventions;
• Liaising with PIs at University Malaya and Monash University, International Health Policy Program in Thailand to organize meetings and coordinate manuscript writing;
• Liaising with UNU-IIGH staff to arrange travel and event logistics related to the project;
• Drafting financial expenditure summaries as needed.

Minimum qualifications and experience
• Advanced university degree (Master’s or equivalent) in public health, health policy, international development or social sciences and health;
• Excellent communication skills, including writing and editing manuscripts;
• Experience of conducting, preferably leading, qualitative research projects and data analysis; experience of conducting systematic reviews is highly desirable;
• Experience of conducting research in MOH Malaysia facilities and familiarity with processes and approvals is highly desirable;
• Strong IT skills and familiarity with MS Office, referencing software (Endnote, Zotero) and qualitative analysis software (NVivo);
• Excellent organisational skills, preferably in a research or higher education field;
• Able to work independently with minimal supervision;
• Fluency in spoken and written English and in Bahasa Malaysia.

Remuneration & duration of contract
This is a full-time, locally recruited position on a Consultant Contract (CTC) for 12 months, with an initial probation period of 4 weeks. Remuneration for this position is at $1200 USD/month. UNU-IIGH is unable to sponsor work visas for consultants, and payment of any taxes remains the sole responsibility of the consultant.

Starting date:
ASAP, by Monday 7 January 2019.

Application Procedure:
Please send your CV, reference or contact details for 2 referees, and a brief note in your email about your experience, to recruit.iigh@unu.edu and nicola.pocock@unu.edu, by Monday 26th November 2018. Please include “Research Officer: Migrant Health” in the email subject line. Interviews will be held between Monday 3rd – Friday 7th December, with an anticipated start date as soon as possible thereafter.