



Candidate Information

Position:	Research Assistant
School/Department:	Institute for Global Food Security
Reference:	18/106962
Closing Date:	Wednesday 12 December 2018
Salary:	£27,831 - £32,236 per annum (potential to progress to £35,210 per annum through sustained exceptional contribution)
Anticipated Interview Date:	Thursday 20 December 2018
Duration:	12 Months

JOB PURPOSE:

To be an active member of the IValueFood project research team and to assist in the planning and delivery of the research so that the overall research objectives of the project are met. The successful candidate will be involved in setting up a decision making framework, digital platforms and capturing and recording data generated from novel approaches to be used to engage next generation audiences: students from primary school to university.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. To work as part of the Consumer research group within the Institute for Global Food Security, Queen's University Belfast.
2. To create a decision making framework and strategies with different stakeholders (teachers, parents, NGOs, Consumer organisations, Government, Industry) to be used with the next generation.
3. To develop and assess the Decision Making Framework (DMF) for selection and evaluation. The DMF will be co-created with teachers and will allow them to select the best tools/strategies for their needs. The DMF will have a feedback loop that will provide aggregated data on the teacher and children selection and use of the tools for subsequent analysis to provide information on: 1) uptake of tools, 2) food engagement and food knowledge of children, and identify 3) additional/future needs.
4. To Beta Test the DMF in a small number of early adopter schools, initially in two countries within the EU.
5. To set up a stakeholder platform for the new food champions and others to disseminate the new tools in order to foster greater engagement and communication with the food industry and other stakeholders within the EU.
6. To write reports for the funding body.
7. To present regular progress reports for the research team or to external audiences to disseminate and publicise research findings
8. To carry out routine administrative tasks associated with the research project to ensure that project is completed on time and within budget.
9. To prepare manuscripts based on the results of this work as appropriate for submission to peer review journals.
10. To present work as appropriate at local, national and international conferences
11. To assist with the submission of associated grant applications
12. Any other duties related to the successful achievement of the above study.

Planning and Organising:

1. To plan for delivery of specific deliverables of the research project's scientific outputs on time.
2. To plan for the use of research resources as appropriate.
3. To plan own day-to-day activity within framework of the agreed research programme.
4. To plan to meet deadlines for journal publications and abstract submissions.
5. Coordinate and liaise with other members of the research group regarding progress.

Resource Management Responsibilities:

1. To ensure research resources are used in an effective and efficient manner.
2. To provide support and guidance as required to staff and students assisting with the research.

Internal and External Relationships:

1. To liaise on a regular basis with colleagues, students and key stakeholders.
2. To maintain existing and establish new internal contacts and participate in internal networks for the exchange of information and to form relationships for future collaboration.
3. To maintain existing and establish new external networks to share information and ideas.
4. To contribute to the School's outreach programme by maintaining existing and establishing new links with stakeholders and project partners.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Have obtained an Honours degree in Computer Science or a closely related or relevant discipline.
2. At least one years recent relevant experience of programming
3. Some understanding of decision making frameworks
4. Excellent IT skills e.g. Microsoft Office suite.
5. Excellent organisational skills.
6. Good oral and written communication skills.
7. Evidence of ability to write reports and meet deadlines.
8. Evidence of ability to deal competently with administrative tasks and contribute to broader management tasks.
9. Relevant programming languages (JAVA, HTML,PHP)
10. Clear and confident communicator.
11. Ability to give formal presentations.
12. Ability to work independently and on own initiative.
13. Ability to act decisively and confidently.
14. Access to transport or ability to meet the mobility requirements of the post.
15. Willingness to travel to meet the needs of the post.
16. Ability to work outside normal hours when necessary.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. A MSc or PhD in Computer Science or relevant discipline
2. At least two years recent relevant experience of programming
3. Experience/knowledge of gamification tools
4. Proven ability to work in a multi-disciplinary environment as part of a research team
5. Experience working with food
6. Proven ability to participate in collaborative research.
7. Good inter-personal skills
8. Experience of public engagement activities and disseminating research to non-academic audiences.