

## Candidate Information

<b>Position:</b>	Research Fellow in Human Nutrition (Part-time)
<b>School/Department:</b>	School of Biological Sciences
<b>Reference:</b>	19/107539
<b>Closing Date:</b>	Wednesday 17 July 2019
<b>Salary:</b>	£33,199 to £38,460 per annum pro rata
<b>Duration:</b>	Available until 31 July 2021

### JOB PURPOSE:

An experienced and highly motivated Postdoctoral scientist is being sought to join Dr. Qiaozhu Su's research group based in the Institute for Global Food Security, School of Biological Sciences at Queen's University Belfast. The recruited Postdoctoral scientist will undertake a senior role within a NICHS funded project focused on investigating the therapeutic effect of fenugreek seed in hyperlipidaemia and cardiovascular disease and the establishment of novel therapeutic biomarkers. Specific attention will be paid on investigating the lipid lowering effect of fenugreek seed on human subjects with hyperlipidaemia and establishing circulating blood non-coding microRNAs (e.g. microRNA-122) as novel therapeutic biomarkers of hyperlipidaemia. Both clinical and laboratory molecular research approaches will be applied to fulfil the proposed research in this project.

Applications are invited from enthusiastic, motivated and efficient individuals with a strong commitment to research. The successful candidate will have a demonstrated experience of management and co-ordination of human intervention or epidemiological studies as well as strong background on lipid metabolism and/or closely related fields in biomedical science with an excellent PhD degree awarded. The candidate should be committed to developing a dynamic, academic career in science and have excellent communication skills in written and spoken English.

We offer scientific development opportunities in an international and interdisciplinary environment and support our postdoctoral fellows on career development.

### MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Work as part of the Nutrition research group within the Institute for Global Food Security and School of Biological Sciences.
2. Assist with ethical and research governance procedures in relation to the study.
3. Assist with the development, delivery and analysis of human intervention based sub-study involving project stakeholders
4. Carry out analyses, critical evaluations and interpretations of experimental data and the literature using methodologies and other techniques appropriate to the area of research. Techniques may include human blood sample collection, cell culture, flow cytometry, Western blotting, RT-PCR, and ELISA.
5. Present regular progress reports to the supervisor, research team or external audiences to disseminate and publish research findings.
6. Prepare, in consultation with supervisor, material for publication in national and international journals and presentations at international conferences.
7. Assist grant holder in the preparation of project progress reports to external funding agency.
8. Carry out routine administrative tasks associated with the research project to ensure that the projects are completed on time and within budget, including organisation of project meetings and documentation, financial control, risk assessment of research activities.
9. Any other duties related to the successful achievement of the above study.

### Planning and Organising:

1. Plan for specific aspects of research programme. Timescales range from 1-12 months in advance and may contribute to overall research group planning.
2. Plan for access to and use of research resources, laboratories and workshops where appropriate.
3. Plan own day-to day activity within framework of the agreed research programme as well as communal activities (eg. meetings) where appropriate.
4. Plan to meet deadlines for grant applications, journal publications and to prepare presentations and papers for conferences and meetings.
5. Coordinate and liaise with other members of the research group and collaborative research groups regarding work progress and stock management.

#### **Resource Management Responsibilities:**

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

#### **Internal and External Relationships:**

1. Liaise on a regular basis with supervisor, colleagues, and collaborators.
2. Communicate appropriately and effectively with patient subjects involved in this study on topics related to the project.
3. Maintain existing and establish new external networks to share information and ideas.
4. Contribute to the School's outreach programme by maintaining existing and establishing new links with stakeholders and project partners.
5. Travel to, and present at scientific meetings and work in collaborative laboratories when necessary.
6. Join external networks to share information and ideas and help develop and maintain external collaborations, as appropriate.
7. Contribute to the School's outreach programme by developing links with local community groups, industries etc.

#### **ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:**

1. Hold or be about to obtain a PhD in human nutrition or a closely related discipline.
  2. At least three years recent relevant experience of human nutrition or other relevant research.
  3. Experience of management and co-ordination of human intervention or epidemiological studies.
  4. Experience of process evaluation and/or qualitative research methods.
  5. Proven ability to work in a multi-disciplinary environment as part of a research team
- AND
- Recent extensive hands-on experience in two of the following:
1. Human blood sample collection
  2. ELISA
  3. Western Blotting
  4. qPCR
- AND
- Recent high quality original publications in reputable peer-reviewed journals, commensurate with career stage.
6. Experience in teaching/supervising /mentoring postgraduate/ undergraduate/school students and visiting researchers in the laboratory.
  7. Methodical approach to project management and meticulous in regards to experimental procedures and record keeping.
  8. Highly ambitious, self-motivated, very efficient and organised.
  9. Showing strong commitment to and interest in, research topic.
  10. Competent in maintaining and communicating knowledge of cutting-edge of field of expertise.
  11. Excellent IT skills e.g. Microsoft Office suite.
  12. Excellent organisational skills.
  13. Excellent oral and written communication skills.
  14. Evidence of ability to write reports and meet deadlines.
  15. Evidence of ability to deal competently with administrative tasks and contribute to broader management tasks.
  16. Competent in giving effective and informative oral and poster presentations.
  17. Competent in communicating stipulated research skills is essential to the post.
  18. Strong ability to work from own initiative and to work independently.
  19. Excellent team working skills in multiple internal and external team settings.
  20. Leadership qualities.
  21. Excellent problem-solving skills.

22. Irregular hours including evening, weekend and other out-of-hours work will be a component of the research at times.
23. Access to transport or ability to meet the mobility requirements of the post.
24. Must be willing to travel to national and international meetings and collaborative laboratories.

**DESIRABLE CRITERIA:**

1. Experience of management of databases and webpage development.
2. Experience of dietary assessment and analysis.
3. Experience of systematic review methodology.
4. Experience of undertaking a range of community engagement, outreach and dissemination activities.
5. Up-to-date knowledge of functional foods, dietary intervention, metabolic disease, physiology and pathology of microRNA.
6. Research project management training.
7. Recent hands-on experience in creating SOP and Risk Assessments.
8. Proven ability to participate in or initiate collaborative research.
9. Evidence of having co-ordinated a research project to successful completion.
10. Experience working in outreach settings.
11. Experience in giving oral presentations.
12. Strong commitment to a career in research.