# Candidate Information

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| **Position:** | Research Fellow (Food Futures) |
| **School/Department:** | Institute for Global Food Security |
| **Reference:** | 19/107619 |
| **Closing Date:** | Wednesday 31 July 2019 |
| **Salary:** | £33,199 per annum |
| **Anticipated Interview Date:** | Wednesday 21 August 2019 |
| **Duration:** | Available up to 30 September 2020 |

**JOB PURPOSE:**

This research will be carried out within the Invest NI-funded project "Food Futures SMART Sustainable Agri-Food Production". Led jointly by Queen's University Belfast (QUB) and Agri Food Biosciences Institute (AFBI), the Food Futures project (funded by Agri-Food Quest) adopts a unique participatory approach to evidence and enhance the sustainability credentials of Northern Ireland Agri-Food. The objective is to develop a holistic Sustainability Platform including reporting tool for Agri-Food supply chains. The Food Futures platform will inform and enhance sustainability of the land and food based sector and help create an additional unique selling point for Agri-Food sector in Northern Ireland.

This research component will mainly focus on collection of primary data (economic, environmental and social) and econometric analysis that will be part of the learning layer of an artificial intelligence-based platform for decision making at farm level. The econometrics modelling will be one of the several learning models. The platform aims to foster farmers' behavioural change towards more sustainable practices.

The selected candidates will collaborate extensively also with AFBI and private sector partners.

**MAJOR DUTIES:**

1. Develop and carry out a plan to conduct research activities related to the position.
2. Searching literature (e.g. especially peer reviewed), producing literature reviews and generating descriptive reports.
3. To manage QUB relationships with AFBI, businesses, and wider to ensure a joined-up and cohesive approach to industry-related initiatives.
4. Designing stated-preference studies and/or economic experiments under the supervisions of the line manager.
5. Organising and conducting fieldwork and collecting data, e.g. assist in running focus group discussions and workshop with farmers and food industry members; conducting face-to-face interviews and questionnaire surveys with a range of stakeholder groups including farmers, food industry members and policy makers.
6. Ability to handle wide sustainability metrics – economics, environmental and social metrics.
7. To play a leadership role in the development of econometrics data analytics research and to extend the research capacity already established in this area.
8. Handling big databases and performing econometric analyses.
9. Contributing to the production of reports and academic papers.
10. Present regular progress reports on research to members of the research group or to external audiences to disseminate and publicise research findings.
11. Carry out a limited amount of teaching duties under direction.
12. Carry out routine administrative duties as requested, e.g. arranging research group meetings.
13. Carry out any other duties designated by a line manager and which fall within the general ambit of the post.

**Planning and Organising:**

1. Plan and prioritise own day-to-day activity within the framework of the agreed research programme.
2. Contribute to the planning of research projects, reports and publications etc.

3. Plan and organise data collection campaigns.
4. Maintain contact with study volunteers until data collection is complete and after if necessary.

**Resource Management Responsibilities:**
1. Ensure research resources are used in an effective and efficient manner.
2. Provide guidance as required to support staff and any students who may be assisting with research.

**Internal and External Relationships:**
1. Ability to communicate with staff of all grades.
2. Effective communication and collaboration with AFBI and industry partners.
3. Liaise with research colleagues and support staff on routine matters.
4. Make internal and external contacts to develop knowledge and understanding and form relationships for future collaboration.
5. Attend and contribute to relevant meetings.

**ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:**
1. Have or about to obtain a PhD in economics, agricultural economics, environmental economics, agricultural sustainability, data analytics or a related subject.
2. At least 3 years recent relevant research experience.
3. Experience in the use of statistical methods for data analysis.
4. Experience in econometrics and data analysis.
5. Experience in developing and analysing indicators of economics, environmental and social performance.
6. Experience in design and implementing preference methods and/or economic experiments.
7. Recent high-quality original research publications in reputable peer-reviewed journals, commensurate with career stage.
8. Willingness to teach undergraduate/ postgraduate students.
9. Ability to liaise with different stakeholders, including from the private sector.
10. Methodical approach to project management.
11. Experience in managing and coordinating a recruitment campaign for a survey.
12. Knowledge of econometric software (STATA, R, SPSS, etc.)
13. Knowledge of ethics procedures for studies involving humans
14. Ability to communicate with staff of all grades (oral and written)
15. Ability to communicate research to study volunteers
16. Ability to produce written non-academic reports
17. Ability to liaise within and across project teams
18. Ability to manage own time
19. Ability to make daily decisions independently and in conjunction with other team members
20. Ability to build contacts and participate in internal and external networks
21. Ability to present own work to a non-academic audience.
22. Flexibility, motivation and ability to work with others.
23. Respond to practical challenges, investigate problems and try to find efficient solutions
24. Must be willing to travel to national and international meetings as required.

**DESIRABLE CRITERIA:**
1. Experience in using GIS software.
2. Experience in managing small scale field projects and having co-ordinated to successful completion.
3. Experience in participating in multidisciplinary projects.
4. Experience teaching or as demonstrator to undergraduate/postgraduate students.
5. Evidence of having presented at conferences (poster or oral).