# Candidate Information

**Position:** Research Assistant
**School/Department:** Institute for Global Food Security
**Reference:** 21/108839
**Closing Date:** Monday 21 June 2021
**Salary:** £28,331 per annum
**Anticipated Interview Date:** Tuesday 6 July 2021
**Duration:** Available until 30 June 2023

## JOB PURPOSE:

To be an active member of the research team assisting in the managing and detecting contamination of feed and food supply chains.

## MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Undertake research activities that may include laboratory experiments, sample analysis, method development, critical evaluation and interpretation of results, building databases, risk management modelling, computer-based data analysis and evaluation or library research in consultation with the research supervisor.
2. Present regular progress reports on research to members of the research group or to external audiences to disseminate and publicise research findings.
3. Write up results of own work and contribute to the production of research reports, publications and proposals in a timely manner.
4. Assist grant holder in the preparation of funding proposals and applications to external bodies.
5. Carry out occasional undergraduate supervision, demonstrating or teaching duties within the post holder's area of expertise and under the direct guidance of a member of academic staff.
6. Carry out routine administrative duties as requested, e.g., arranging research group meetings, maintaining research group website.
7. When required spend time in the laboratory of IGFS partner companies based in Northern Ireland and Europe, assisting in routine analysis, and transferring methods to company staff.
8. Read academic papers, journals and textbooks to keep abreast of developments in risk management.
9. 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 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 usually 1-6 months in advance.
3. Plan for the use of research resources, laboratories and workshops where appropriate.
4. Assist with planning in in advance to meet deadlines for journal publications and to prepare presentations and papers for conferences.
5. Coordinate and liaise with other members of the research group over work progress.

### 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. Liaise with research colleagues and support staff on routine matters.
2. Make internal and external contacts to develop knowledge and understanding and form relationships for future collaboration.
3. Attend and contribute to relevant meetings.

## ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. \*Degree or equivalent in subject relevant to research activity.
2. \*At least 1 years' recent relevant research experience.
3. \*At least 1 years' experience (postgraduate) working in an academic and/or industrial environment in the science/food sector.
4. \*Experience in laboratory techniques including screening and confirmatory methods.
5. \*At least 1 years' experience in Academic/Industry collaboration.
6. Ability to carry out routine administrative tasks associated with the project.
7. Have excellent attention to detail, communication and team-working skills.
8. Ability to present scientific arguments and data in a clear, concise and confident manner.
9. Ability to present regular reports on results to members of the surveillance programme.
10. Ability to communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing.
11. Ability to interview, analyse and communicate effectively.
12. Ability to undertake work across all sections of the laboratory.
13. Ability to interact with research colleagues and support staff.
14. Ability to build contacts and participate in internal and external networks.
15. Excellent problem-solving skills.
16. Willing to work outside normal office hours if necessary, for the progress of the research project.

**DESIRABLE CRITERIA:**
1. PhD or equivalent in a relevant area.
2. Experience reviewing scientific literature in the form of honours project, MSc thesis or PhD.
3. Competitive knowledge of IT relevant to the requirements of the role.
4. Experience of managing industry related projects.
5. Experience of the application of IT tools in data analysis.
6. Awareness of commercial sensitivities/ considerations when entering academia/industry collaborations.