

Candidate Information

Position:	Research Fellow (Part-time)
School/Department:	Centre for Public Health
Reference:	21/109268
Closing Date:	Thursday 21 October 2021
Salary:	£34,304 - £38,587 per annum (pro-rata)
Anticipated Interview Date:	Thursday 4 November 2021
Duration:	Available until 30 April 2023

JOB PURPOSE:

The postholder will work on projects to optimise dietary assessment for older adults and investigate the role of diet for healthy ageing. The post-holder will: (i) optimise a newly developed food frequency questionnaire (FFQ) diet measure for older adults in India to be employed in the Longitudinal Aging Study in India Diagnostic Assessment of Dementia (LASI-DAD) cohort study; (ii) evaluate the validity and reproducibility of the FFQ using 24-hour Dietary Recall (24-DR), and nutritional biomarkers; and (iii) Investigate associations between diet exposures and age-related outcomes in different populations. This project will require knowledge and expertise in food composition and dietary assessment methodology and nutritional epidemiology.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. To work as part of the Nutrition research group within the Centre for Public Health, School of Medicine, Dentistry & Biomedical Sciences, Institute for Global Food Security, Queen's University Belfast.
2. To develop standardized data operating procedures for FFQ and 24-DR diet measures for the LASI-DAD study.
3. To develop a nutrient composition database for the nutrient analysis of dietary intake data in LASI-DAD.
4. To work with the LASI-DAD team to establish processes for automated computation of dietary and nutrient intakes from FFQ and 24-HR measures
5. To perform data cleaning and statistical analysis for the LASI-DAD Diet study and for other existing datasets as required.
6. To evaluate the validity and reproducibility of the FFQ among older adults in India.
7. To present regular progress reports for the research team or to external audiences to disseminate and publicise research findings.
8. To work collaboratively as part of a global multidisciplinary team.
9. To carry out routine administrative tasks associated with the research programme to ensure that project activities are completed on time and within budget, including organisation of project meetings and documentation, financial control, and risk assessment of research activities.
10. To prepare manuscripts based on findings from the research for submission to peer review journals.
11. To present work as appropriate at local, national, and international conferences.
12. To actively participate in the research programme of the Nutrition Group.
13. To review scientific literature and develop new nutrition-related research projects.
14. To assist with the submission of associated grant applications and the supervision of undergraduate and postgraduate students.
15. Any other duties as may be deemed reasonable by the project supervisor.

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 or be about to obtain PhD in Nutrition or a closely related discipline.
2. At least three years recent relevant experience of human nutrition research.
3. Knowledge and experience in dietary assessment methodology.
4. Knowledge and experience in nutritional epidemiology or another closely related discipline.
5. Publication track record commensurate with experience.
6. Experience of management of databases and statistical packages e.g., Stata, SPSS.
7. Proven ability to work in a multi-disciplinary environment as part of a research team.
8. Excellent IT skills e.g. Microsoft Office suite.
9. Excellent organisational skills.
10. Excellent inter-personal skills.
11. Excellent oral and written communication skills.
12. Evidence of ability to write reports and meet deadlines.
13. Evidence of ability to deal competently with administrative tasks and contribute to broader management tasks.
14. Evidence of having co-ordinated a research project to successful completion.
15. Clear and confident communicator
16. Ability to give formal presentations.
17. Ability to build contacts and participate in internal and external networks.
18. Ability to work independently and on own initiative.
19. Ability to act decisively and confidently.
20. Accurate and attention to details to ensure high quality of work.
21. Willingness to travel to meet the needs of the post.
22. Ability to work outside normal hours when necessary.
23. Willingness to travel to Indian Partner Institutions for training and dissemination if required.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Experience of dietary measurement validation.
2. Experience of supervising and mentoring research students.
3. Proven ability to participate in or initiate collaborative research.
4. Experience of disseminating research to non-academic audiences.
5. Strong commitment to a career in research/academia.