

Candidate Information

Position:	Research Assistant in Microbiology
School/Department:	Biological Sciences
Reference:	22/110378
Closing Date:	Monday 5 December 2022
Salary:	£29,619 - £34,308 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date:	Thursday 15 December 2022
Duration:	Fixed Term available until 31 March 2024

JOB PURPOSE:

To be an active member of a cross-Faculty research team monitoring pathogen levels and antimicrobial resistance within selected wastewater treatment plants and nursing home sites across Northern Ireland. The project will involve the routine sampling of wastewater treatment facilities and nursing home sites alongside the analysis of these samples for a range of pathogen and antimicrobial resistance markers qPCR and whole genome sequencing.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Set up off-site sampling equipment and undertake sample collection.
2. Ensure the continued safe and compliant operation of all aspects of the project – from sample processing to PCR analysis (aliquoting of samples, reaction mix preparation in a clean room, processing of samples, interpretation of results).
3. Working in Containment Level 2 laboratories following local code of practice.
4. Carry out analyses, critical evaluations, and interpretations using methodologies and other techniques appropriate to the area of research.
5. Assisting in the disposal of samples in accordance with all relevant guidelines.
6. Prepare and manage documentation required as required.
7. To present regular progress reports to the research team and external audiences to publicise research findings.
8. To maintain links with collaborators, project mentors and commercial partners.
9. Carry out routine administrative tasks associated with the research project to ensure that project is completed on time and within budget.
10. Read academic papers, journals and textbooks to keep abreast of developments in own specialism and related disciplines.
11. Any other reasonable duties within the general remit of the post.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Degree in Microbiology or related discipline.
2. At least 1-year recent relevant research experience in a laboratory setting with experience in nucleic acid extraction from environmental / clinical samples and qPCR.
3. Well-developed understanding of relevant regulations and procedures including Health and Safety requirements and of COSHH regulations.
4. Interest in interdisciplinary research.
5. Ability to carry out routine administrative tasks associated with the project.
6. Sufficient breadth and depth of specialist knowledge in the discipline and of research methods and techniques to work within established research programmes.
7. Ability to undertake work across all sections of the laboratory.
8. Ability to communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing.
9. Have excellent attention to detail, communication and team-working skills.
10. Ability to work efficiently as a team member and be highly motivated.
11. Willing to handle samples, which may contain potentially harmful pathogens.
12. Must be prepared to travel and undertake work with collaborators based in UK/Europe.

13. Willing to work shifts which may be outside normal office hours.
14. Holds a current valid driving license and access to transport or the ability to meet the mobility requirements of the post.
15. The successful candidates must have had, or will be required to get, a hepatitis A and B vaccination, and any additional vaccinations as required for sampling at a wastewater treatment facility.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Have or about to obtain a Masters or PhD in Microbiology or related discipline.
2. Experience in the operation of wastewater autosamplers.
3. Evidence of having presented at conferences (poster and/or oral presentations).