



## Candidate Information

<b>Position:</b>	Research Assistant
<b>School/Department:</b>	School of Biological Sciences
<b>Reference:</b>	24/111739
<b>Closing Date:</b>	Monday 8 April 2024
<b>Salary:</b>	£32,024 per annum pro rata. (£16,012 per annum for 18.5hrs per week)
<b>Anticipated Interview Date:</b>	Monday 22 April 2024
<b>Duration:</b>	Available on a fixed term contract for 8 months, or available until 31 July 2025, whichever is sooner

### JOB PURPOSE:

The School of Biological Sciences and Institute for Global Food Security at Queen's University Belfast is currently seeking to appoint an exceptional candidate to the post of Research Assistant. The appointee will join the research group led Dr Koidis working in the disciplines of food science and social science. The successful candidate will primarily work within a multidisciplinary team of leading researchers from Northern Ireland, Ireland (ROI) and Great Britain from the academic and professional/private sector with extended experience in the fields of allergen management and analysis, food regulation and consumer behaviour.

As part of the main duties, the research assistant will undertake fieldwork across N. Ireland and small part of the Ireland to assess compliance to legislation for allergen labelling and information provision of the food catering and hospitality businesses, as part of the research project titled: "The application and management of food allergen information for non-prepacked foods by the catering & hospitality sector on the island of Ireland".

In general, the postholder will be an active member of the research project/team assisting in the planning and delivery of research activity within this safefood funded project. Priority will be given to candidates with research interests and expertise in the interface of social science and food science with some experience in food legislation.

### MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Undertake basic research activities that include extensive fieldwork (see below) as well as some critical evaluation and interpretation, computer-based data analysis and evaluation in consultation with the research grant holder or supervisor.
2. Conduct fieldwork across N. Ireland to assess compliance to legislation for allergen labelling and information provision of the food catering and hospitality businesses using the mystery shopper methodology.
3. Present progress reports on research to members of the research group or to external audiences to disseminate and publicise research findings.
4. Write up results of own work and contribute to the production of research reports and publications.
5. Carry out routine administrative duties as requested, e.g. arranging research group meetings, maintaining research group website and social network channels.
6. Carry out any other duties designated by a grant holder, and which fall within the general ambit of the post such as reading academic papers, journals, and textbooks to keep abreast of developments in own specialism and related disciplines, and prepare in consultation with supervisors, material for publication in national and international journals and presentations at conferences.
7. Aid effective team working within the group led by the principal investigator.
8. Ability to work part-time, driving license holder.

### ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Degree or equivalent in subject relevant to research activity (science or social science).
2. BSc in Food Science, Biology or equivalent.

3. Relevant experience in:
  - a) social science or consumer research (e.g., as part of a project), and
  - b) survey to assess legislation compliance - in any discipline.
4. Some practical experience of applying specialist skills and techniques required in relation to the fieldwork.
5. A basic understanding of specialist knowledge in the discipline (food allergens labelling) and of research methods and techniques to work within own area (surveys).
6. Ability to contribute to method improvement where required. Pilot the methodology to refine it when necessary.
7. Ability to interact with research colleagues and support staff.
8. Ability to analyse and communicate effectively.
9. Demonstrable intellectual ability.
10. Driving licence and access to a car.

**DESIRABLE CRITERIA:**

1. BSc in Environmental Health or similar.
2. May be working towards a PhD or post graduate qualification.
3. 1 or more years' experience in food business audits and/or applied social science (Consumer behaviour etc).
4. Experience with consumer behaviour methods and interpretation of the results.
5. Experience in the mystery shopper methodology.
6. Residency in NI / local experience.