

Candidate Information

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| Position: | Research Fellow |
| School/Department: | School of Biological Sciences |
| Reference: | 24/111817 |
| Closing Date: | Monday 20 May 2024 |
| Salary: | £37,841 per annum |
| Anticipated Interview Date: | Thursday 30 May 2024 |
| Duration: | Available for 2 years or until 30 April 2026, whichever is soonest. |

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 Fellow. The appointee will join the Huws group, focused on sustainable livestock production using the disciplines of Microbiology, Animal Science, and Bioinformatics.

The successful candidate will primarily work within a multidisciplinary team undertaking research focused on sustainable ruminant production, with an emphasis on methane mitigation. The post holder will work with industry partners locally and globally to deliver impact for the agricultural and food sector. The successful candidate will work alongside the lead, a bioinformatician and a project manager within the new Centre of Excellence in Agri-Food Microbiomics. The candidate will be expected to perform the research required (for example in vitro testing) and the reports thereafter in a timely and professional manner. In general, the postholder will be an active member of the research project/team assisting in the planning and delivery of research activity. Priority will be given to candidates with research interests and expertise in anaerobic microbiology, particularly with respect to livestock microbiomes.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. To undertake research under supervision of the principal investigator within the specific research projects.
2. Design experiments in line with the hypotheses asked and ensure timely deliver of data and reports . This requires the ability to make logical decisions and be able to problem solve effectively.
3. Interact professionally with industry partners.
4. Carry out statistical analyses, critical evaluations, and interpretations using methodologies and other techniques appropriate to area of research in collaboration with the bioinformatician when required.
5. Carry out analyses, critical evaluations, and interpretations using methodologies and other techniques appropriate to area of research.
6. Communicate orally and through e-mail effectively to line manager and other partners involved in the project.
7. Prepare, in consultation with supervisor, and providing industry consent is given, material for publication in national and international journals and presentations at international conferences.
8. Carry out routine administrative tasks associated with the research project/s to ensure that project/s are completed on time and within budget. These might include organisation of project meetings and documentation, financial control, risk assessment of research activities.
9. Carry out occasional undergraduate supervision, demonstrating or lecturing duties within the post holder's area of expertise and under the direct guidance of a member of academic staff.
10. Read academic papers, journals and textbooks to keep abreast of developments in own specialism and related disciplines.
11. Assist grant holder in the preparation of funding proposals and applications to external bodies.
12. Aid effective team working within the group led by the principal investigator.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Hold or is about to be awarded* a PhD in a relevant area (microbiology, animal science veterinary science). (*must be obtained within 3 months of commencement of employment)

2. Research experience to include:
 - Experience of anaerobic microbiology and in vitro technologies
 - Experience in designing experiments and statistical analysis
 - Demonstrable computational or laboratory experience relevant to microbiology, specifically 16S rDNA microbiome analysis
 - Experience of using programming skills in appropriate languages and software e.g. R.
3. Some experience of peer-reviewed publication in a relevant area of research.
4. Some experience of supervising undergraduates and/or postgraduate students.
5. Experience of working in a team.
6. Experience of presenting to the scientific community i.e. conference talks.
7. Ability to contribute to broader management and administrative processes.
8. Ability to communicate complex information clearly.
9. Ability to assess and organise resources and deliver in a timely manner.
10. Methodical approach to project management and meticulous in regard to experimental procedures and record keeping.
11. Sufficient breadth and depth of specialist knowledge in the discipline and of research methods and techniques to work within established research programmes.
12. Demonstrable intellectual ability.
13. Irregular hours including evening, weekend and other out-of-hours work may be a component of the research at times.
14. Must be willing to travel to national and international meetings and collaborative laboratories as required on an ad-hoc basis.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Experience of working alongside industry partners.
2. Experience in the analysis of high-throughput DNA sequencing data.
3. Peer reviewed publications or preprints in the area livestock microbiome research.
4. Understanding of the challenges facing the livestock sector.
5. Evidence of having presented at conferences (poster and/or oral presentations).