

Candidate Information

Position:	Senior Research Fellow (Co-Centre for Sustainable Food Systems)
School/Department:	School of Biological Sciences
Reference:	24/112075
Closing Date:	Monday 26 August 2024
Salary:	£49,059 - £60,284 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date:	Thursday 5 September 2024
Duration:	36 Months

JOB PURPOSE:

The recently awarded 35M EU Co-Centre for Sustainable Food Systems has an ambitious programme of work which aims to develop a robust, resilient and sustainable food system in the transition to healthy diets from sustainable sources. It encompasses a research programme from plant science to nutrition and public health across three jurisdictions – the Republic of Ireland (ROI), Northern Ireland (NI) and Great Britain (GB). The Co-Centre will foster research and innovation to accelerate radical transitions towards a more environmentally and economically sustainable and transparent agri-food sector.

Reporting to the Co-Centre Co-Director at QUB, the Senior Research Fellow will be an experienced Research Fellow with expertise in Nutritional Epidemiology. The project will allow the Senior Research Fellow to conduct world-leading research work on our existing cohort studies (working closely with Profs Cassidy and Kuhn on healthy diets from sustainable sources). In addition, the post holder will be responsible for developing a research funding strategy, identifying funding opportunities and drafting and co-ordinating national and international research funding bids, working closely with colleagues from UCD and Sheffield. A particular focus will be in the preparation of Horizon Europe proposals, Wellcome trust proposals, and US Ireland R&D Partnership Programme bids. The Senior Research Fellow will also work with counterparts at UCD and Sheffield to engage in national and international networks to highlight the Co-Centre's research, build consortia and develop future partnerships.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Maintain a high-quality research profile in nutritional epidemiology with a major focus on cardiometabolic health.
2. Within research project, take the lead in setting research objectives and programme of implementation.
3. Develop, plan and lead on the submission of funding bids (from initial concept to final draft), working closely with the Co-Centre Co-Directors.
4. Develop and execute a funding diversification strategy for the Co-Centre in collaboration with RPMs based at UCD and Sheffield.
5. Monitor and report on all research activities across the NI Sub-Centre to ensure that research projects are completed on time and within budget.
6. Sustain a high-quality publication record by publishing in refereed journals and presenting at conferences.
7. Prepare reports on research activities for internal and external audiences.
8. Proactively identify all funding opportunities best suited to researchers across the Co-Centre working closely with QUB's Research & Enterprise Directorate.
9. Develop an effective communication strategy to ensure the team is aware of all the funding opportunities available.
10. Advise and inform senior management on all aspects of funding calls.
11. Develop an external facing profile for the Co-Centre.
12. Network extensively with a wide range of internal and external stakeholders including those in the Co-Centre's funding agencies and national/international key opinion formers.
13. Act as a key point of contact for research funding programmes across funding agencies.
14. Prioritise workload to meet demanding deadlines.
15. Any other duties as may be assigned by the co-directors.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Qualified to PhD degree level in nutrition/epidemiology or other relevant discipline.
2. Substantial post-doctoral experience and skills in epidemiology (nutrition/biomarkers/big data).
3. A sustained publication record which is REF returnable.
4. A high academic standing with a growing reputation in research within subject specialism.
5. Experience of project management, delivering research outcomes and proven ability to work in a multi-disciplinary environment as part of a research team.
6. Experience in managing and coordinating research funding submissions through national and international agencies.
7. Experience of developing research methodologies and devising models, approaches, critiques and methods.
8. Knowledge of the international research funding environment.
9. Ability to manage resources and understanding of management processes.
10. Ability to secure grants/contracts independently or as a leader of a section in major projects
11. Ability to devise, advise on and manage research programmes.
12. Ability to work well under pressure and to work on their own initiative.
13. Numerate and accurate with attention to detail.
14. Excellent interpersonal and communication skills including report writing.
15. Ability to travel extensively across the co-centre partner sites and to network internationally.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Experience in working with industrial partners.
2. Experience in developing large research proposals involving multiple partners and drafting text for such proposals.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Informal Enquiries to Dr Amy Jennings: a.jennings@qub.ac.uk