

Candidate Information

Position:	Research Fellow - Innovation Programmes Project Lead
School/Department:	Institute for Global Food Security
Reference:	24/112321
Closing Date:	Thursday 2 January 2025
Salary:	£39,922 per annum.
Anticipated Interview Date:	Thursday 16 January 2025
Duration:	10 months or until 28 November 2025, whichever is soonest

JOB PURPOSE:

This exciting position will allow the successful candidate to join the Institute for Global Food's Security's Innovation team. The postholder will work primarily on InterTrade Ireland (ITI) Synergy. They will be responsible for the development and delivery of the Agri Food Connect Synergy Project, developing an ecosystem of innovators from Registered Training Organisations (RTO's), Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SME's) and large companies in Northern Ireland and the Isle of Ireland, attracting and supporting entrepreneurs, spinouts and startups to build successful agrifood projects.

The post-holder will be based at the School of Biological Sciences, Queen's University Belfast.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Day to day project co-ordination and regular progress reports to the project consortium and ITI.
2. Participation in meetings with the agri-Food community in Northern Ireland and Ireland as appropriate to support work of the Agri Food Connect Project.
3. Working closely with our collaborator in Ireland, Munster Technology University (MTU) in relation to all aspects of the project.
4. Carry out administrative tasks associated with the project including the organisation of project meetings, preparation of required documentation, budget management and reporting.
5. Mapping the agrifood innovation ecosystem in Ireland, gathering research data and industry knowledge-sharing related to AgriTech, Food Tech and Agri-Food sectors.
6. Keeping abreast of Ireland wide events pertinent to the project and to the ecosystem.
7. Organising thematic events and demo days related to the development of partnership between research intensive organisations and the private sector.
8. Represent the University at relevant external events to advocate for and promote the project.
9. Collaborate closely with the Research and Enterprise Team at QUB and the MTU Transfer of Technology team in relation to all aspects of the project.
10. Build collaborative relationships in the Innovation ecosystem in NI and ROI in the agrifood sector.
11. Actively seek further funding opportunities and contribute to the submission of proposals.
12. Undertake training as commensurate to the role.
13. Contribute to Queen's outreach activities with external stakeholders such as industry partners, community groups and other groups to build connections, share knowledge and foster collaboration.
14. Work closely with the Institute for Global Food Security and the Global Innovation Institute to drive innovation activities and opportunities for entrepreneurs, startups and spinouts – related to agrifood, one health and secure connected intelligence - in the UK and Irelands for innovation flourish.
15. Carry out any other duties designated by the line manager related to the successful achievement of projects and outcomes under the EIT Food partnership.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Have or be about to obtain* a PhD in a relevant subject area e.g., Biological Science, Food Science, Agriculture or related subject (*must be obtained within 3 months of commencement of employment).

2. Substantial relevant experience of working within a research environment in the agriculture, food, health or life sciences areas to include:
 - Experience of working collaboratively with partners, both academic and non-academic.
 - Experience of mapping and building agri-food innovation ecosystems.
 - Experience managing events or workshops with stakeholders related to the food system.
 - Experience in conducting interviews and surveys to help identify opportunities and gaps.
3. Ability to match deep tech entrepreneurs or Research teams with relevant corporates and partners within the agrifood sector.
4. Ability to project manage and record keeping.
5. Ability to communicate and present complex information clearly.
6. Ability to build contacts and participate in internal and external networks.
7. Ability to work independently on own initiative and in a team with other QUB staff engaged in EIT Food & the Seedbed Incubation Programme and with the Business Coach(es).
8. Evidence of strong interpersonal and networking skills with ability to relate to and collaborate with internal and external stakeholders.
9. Excellent written and oral communication skills.
10. Collaborative team player with a passion and strong interest in Research and Innovation.
11. Must be willing to travel to national and international meetings and networking events.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Experience of large scale project planning and management.
2. Evidence of disseminating research or best practice at conferences, workshops and events.
3. Experience in writing project call proposals.
4. Knowledge and previous experience of the Agri-Food sector in Isle Ireland.
5. Clear understanding of the agrifood industry market needs.
6. Easily understands and navigates the academic and corporate world to facilitate connections for the startup programmes and Research Teams and support the development of scientific/commercial opportunities within the mission areas.
7. Competency in data management e.g., databases, spreadsheets and CRM tools.
8. Willingness to engage or host key mission events across Ireland to raise the public profile of the Synergy Programme and the Agri Food Connect Project.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Informal enquiries can be directed to: Shannon McLaughlin - s.m.mclaughlin@qub.ac.uk