

Candidate Information

Position:	Research Fellow (Assistant Network Manager) Part-time 0.5 FTE
School/Department:	School of Biological Sciences
Reference:	25/113004
Closing Date:	Monday 15 December 2025
Salary:	£41,519 per annum, pro rata
Anticipated Interview Date:	Monday 12 January 2026
Duration:	32 months or until 30 September 2028 whichever is soonest

JOB PURPOSE:

The Animal Welfare Research Network (AWRN) aims to foster enhanced collaboration within the UK animal welfare research community and to nurture links with related research areas. The AWRN now has over 1,400 members and recently secured funding from BBSRC for a further 3 years under the title "Animal Welfare Research Network: Enhancing research culture, quality, relevance and impact". The new grant has ambitious targets and thus we are advertising for a research Fellow (Assistant Network Manager) to support the Network Manager in the smooth running of the AWRN.

The Research Fellow (Assistant Network Manager) will be responsible for driving the delivery of key projects within the AWRN remit. These will include working closely with the Coordinating Group to plan and prioritise activities to advance the Network's strategic goals. Working closely with internal and external stakeholders across multiple communication platforms (website, social media, email, press), the Assistant Network Manager will work with the Network Manager to oversee the administrative and operational needs of the Network. The role will include event organisation and facilitation, design and administration of a range of funding schemes, management of the website, development of an inclusive culture and assessment of applications for funding.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Develop resources for the UK animal welfare research community that brings together information, methods and findings from ongoing and past research and disseminate them to scientists, the public and other stakeholders.
2. Drive delivery of Network-funded research projects and advance strategic goals through targeted planning and theme prioritisation.
3. Contribute to scholarly activity including producing academic publications, conference presentations, and funding proposals, in collaboration with Network Core Team and partners (consistent with project aims and commensurate with career stage).
4. Report regularly to the core team, advisory board and members on progress and activities.
5. In consultation with the project team, promote research milestones and outputs at national and international conferences.
6. Assist grant holder and Network Manager in the preparation of funding proposals and applications to external bodies.
7. Develop and maintain effective collaborations with research project leaders, partners and relevant stakeholders.
8. Contribute to research and occasional teaching activities within the School of Biological Sciences including supervision of UG, PGT, and PGR students.
9. Read academic research papers, journals and textbooks to keep abreast of developments in animal welfare science and related disciplines.
10. Perform any other duties within the general remit of the post.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Have or about to obtain* a PhD in animal welfare science or a related field or about to be awarded one. *Must be obtained within 3 months of date of interview.
2. Significant relevant experience of working in animal welfare science, and proven ability to research and extract relevant information from studies for dissemination to other scientists and stakeholders
3. An in-depth knowledge of current animal welfare research and of the active UK animal welfare researcher groups.
4. Understanding of related areas of research.

5. Proven analytical and problem solving capability.
6. Proven track-record of developing, planning and delivering successful science-focused communications and multi-channel campaigns for a range of audiences.
7. Sufficient breadth and depth of specialist knowledge in the discipline and of research methods and techniques to assess research applications and support programmes within the Network.
8. Competent in providing effective and informative oral presentations.
9. Ability to present information on project progress and outcomes to groups overseeing the project including the funding body.
10. Ability to communicate complex information clearly, to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.
11. Ability to work efficiently as either a team member, or an individual, and be highly motivated.
12. Commitment to the promotion and communication of high-quality research and open science.
13. Demonstrable intellectual and communication ability.
14. Ability to build contacts and participate in internal and external collaborations.
15. Ability to handle potentially difficult situations with tact and sensitivity.
16. Commitment to support the development of Early Career Researchers.
17. Excellent organisational skills, the ability to work independently and prioritise a demanding workload.
18. Willingness to work flexibly at times.
19. Willingness to travel to national meetings and collaborative universities and institutes as required on an ad-hoc basis.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Experience of working with web pages.
2. Event management.
3. Writing grant proposals.
4. Experience of research communications, including publications and conference outputs.
5. Experience of engaging stakeholders.
6. Experience of creating multimedia content.
7. Proven ability to manage research projects, oversee resources, collaborations, data, budgets, and deadlines.
8. Understanding of Data Protection principles and working with sensitive data.
9. Relevant knowledge of the field including key leaders in UK animal welfare research and themes.
10. Evidence of having presented research at conferences (poster and oral presentations) or similar.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Informal enquires may be directed to Dr Maeve Palmer - m.a.palmer@qub.ac.uk