

Candidate Information

Position:	Research Assistant - MosquitoNI (Part-Time)
School/Department:	School of Biological Sciences
Reference:	26/113135
Closing Date:	Monday 2 March 2026
Salary:	£35,136 - £40,316 pro rata, per annum
Anticipated Interview Date:	Wednesday 25 March 2026
Duration:	4 years

JOB PURPOSE:

The School of Biological Sciences is currently seeking to appoint a Research Assistant (part-time). The appointee will join the Environmental Change Biology Laboratory on a project focused on mosquito-borne disease risks under anthropogenic environmental gradients. They will work in a multidisciplinary team that includes ecologists, virologists, and mathematical modellers in collaboration across Queen's University Belfast, the University of Glasgow, and the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology.

The successful candidate will work within the new 4-year "MosquitoNI: Mosquito-borne disease risk to Northern Ireland under environmental change" project, funded by BBSRC's New Investigator Award scheme. The project focuses on understanding the implications of climate and land use changes for mosquito-borne disease risk, while addressing regional paucities in knowledge around arthropod vectors and their viruses in Northern Ireland. The successful candidate will be expected to work with wider governmental, charitable, and industrial stakeholders, alongside the public, to translate project outcomes and achieve effective engagement and outreach.

The candidate will provide research support across several components of the project, including field surveys for mosquitoes and their viruses, sample preparation and identification, experimental setup, and stakeholder and public engagement activities. They will gain valuable experience in insect vector biology specifically, alongside broader scientific techniques and in working with academic and non-academic partners.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Assist with field surveys for mosquitoes and their viruses/pathogens around various habitats nationally.
2. Prepare samples for transportation and analyses; contribute to sample identification, laboratory assays, and experimental setup.
3. Assist with organising stakeholder and public networks and engagement events; including responding to public reporting of mosquito nuisance.
4. Manage study data, including data entry, checking, cleaning, and preparation for analysis.
5. Assist with quantitative data analysis under the guidance of senior researchers.
6. Assist in preparing project reports, research papers, and dissemination materials, including preparation of digital content, infographics, newsletters, and other communication materials.
7. Liaise with research collaborators, stakeholders, and administrative teams to support smooth project delivery.
8. Contribute to dissemination and engagement activities (e.g. website updates, short summaries of findings).
9. Carry out routine administrative and organisational tasks associated with the research project, including travel support.
10. Undertake any other duties as required by the principal investigator that contribute to the success of the project.
11. Maintain a project website/blog and relevant social media channels. Regularly update the website and social media with project outputs, activities, and relevant external news around mosquitoes and associated diseases.
12. Read academic papers, journals and textbooks to keep abreast of developments in own specialism and related disciplines.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. A primary degree in a relevant field e.g. Ecology, Molecular Biology, Biology).
2. Demonstrable experience conducting or supporting research in an academic or laboratory-related setting.

3. Demonstrated motivation to work in the field of insect vector biology, with a commitment to improving public and animal health outcomes.
4. Commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion in research and communication.
5. Demonstrable experience with data management or analysis (including the use of software such as R or similar).
6. Demonstrable IT skills, including use of Microsoft Office Suite.
7. Strong organisational skills, including time management.
8. Ability to explain complex ideas in simple, accessible language.
9. Excellent written and verbal communication skills, with the ability to present to a range of audiences.
10. Ability to work as part of a team and independently with minimal supervision.
11. Ability to use initiative and judgement to resolve routine issues.
12. Willingness to occasionally work irregular hours, including evening, weekend, and other out-of-hours work as appropriate.
13. Willing to travel to national and international meetings and collaborative laboratories as required on an ad-hoc basis.
14. Has a full driving licence and can travel efficiently and effectively to multiple sites across Northern Ireland.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Postgraduate qualification (Masters or PhD) in a relevant field.
2. Demonstrable experience of planning and implementing ecological field work.
3. Demonstrable experience in molecular approaches, such as PCR or RNA sequencing.
4. Training or certification in research methods, statistics, communication, or science engagement.
5. Demonstrable experience in working with non-academic stakeholders.
6. Demonstrable experience in managing websites and/or social media platforms.
7. Demonstrable understanding of digital engagement, accessibility, and responsible communication of research.