

Candidate Information

Position:	Research Assistant
School/Department:	School of Biological Sciences
Reference:	26/113219
Closing Date:	Monday 30 March 2026
Salary:	£35,136 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date:	Wednesday 15 April 2026
Duration:	2 years

JOB PURPOSE:

To be a highly productive, ambitious and collaborative member of the research team assisting in the planning and delivery of research activity within specifically the field of polyphenols and health so that the overall research objectives of the project are met. The post arises from the establishment fund for Prof Gary Williamson, who recently joined Queen's from Australia. The position is to generate data in the area of polyphenols and health and publish high quality papers, as well as being involved in scientific discussions, assisting PhD students, contributing research ideas and solving problems.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Undertake research activities under supervision within the research project on polyphenols and health. This may include laboratory experiments such as human cell culture, databases, biochemical analysis, biomarker measurement and related techniques in order to obtain reliable and reproducible data.
2. Carry out analyses, critical evaluation, and interpretation using methodologies and other techniques appropriate to the area of polyphenols and health including computer-based data analysis in consultation with the supervisor.
3. Present regular progress reports on research to members of the research group or to external audiences to disseminate and publicise research findings.
4. Write up results of own work and contribute to the production of research reports, publications and proposals consistent with project aims and commensurate with career stage. Read academic papers, journals and textbooks to keep abreast of developments in own specialism and related disciplines.
5. Carry out occasional educational supervision e.g. undergraduate supervision/ demonstrating/ teaching duties within the post holder's area of expertise and under the direct guidance of a member of academic staff.
6. Carry out routine administrative duties as requested, e.g. arranging research group meetings, maintaining research group website, organisation of project meetings and documentation, risk assessments of research activities.
7. Undertake supplementary duties relevant to the success of the project including administrative duties and additional training and development activities as required.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Degree or equivalent in subject relevant to research activity such as food science, nutrition, biochemistry, chemistry or related subject.
2. Some practical experience of applying specialist skills and techniques required for the role including human interventions, polyphenol chemistry, databases and statistics.
3. A proven track record of using human cell experimental models, databases in polyphenols and health research or closely related subject, critical evaluations of data, and interpretations of experimental data relevant to the research project in polyphenols and health.
4. Ability to contribute to method improvement where required.
5. Practical problem solving skills, independence of thought and initiative.
6. Ability to assess and organise resources.
7. Ability to communicate complex information in English effectively in oral and written format.
8. Ability to discuss scientific data and concepts in the area of polyphenols and health.

9. Demonstrable intellectual ability.
10. Ability to work within the team via in depth discussions, presentations, and brainstorming.
11. Experience with human cell culture studies, enzyme assays, biomarker measurement and knowledge of polyphenols / postprandial / bioavailability / metabolism.
12. Highly motivated to produce high quality publications.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Working towards a PhD or post graduate qualification in subject relevant to research activity such as food science, nutrition, biochemistry, chemistry or related subject.
2. Ability to build relationships to develop internal and external networks.
3. Commitment to continuous professional development.