

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

<b>Vacancy reference:</b>	SRF31703
<b>Post Title:</b>	Postdoctoral Research Assistant in Sensory and Consumer Food Studies
<b>Grade:</b>	Grade 6
<b>School/Department:</b>	School of Agriculture, Policy and Development/ Food and Nutritional Sciences
<b>Reports to:</b>	Dr. Daniele Asioli
<b>Responsible for:</b>	Delivering EIT Food Innovation Project on Healthy Snacking

**Purpose**

The Schools of Agriculture, Policy and Development and Food and Nutritional Sciences of University of Reading have been awarded for a 2020 EIT Food project *“HEALTHSNAP - Healthy Eating by Freshly Made Snacks Personalized According to Individual Preferences”* in collaboration with PepsiCo, Siemens, VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland, Givaudan Switzerland and BeYou as partners. The purpose of this innovation project is to support healthy eating by developing a new food manufacturing technology concept for at-site customized production of healthy snacks. The idea is based on integration of ingredient and instant food manufacturing technologies combined with smart user-interface to support individual choices. Among the different activities, Dr. Daniele Asioli and Prof. Lisa Methven are responsible for the consumer study and there is a need of support to conduct this study. Thus we are seeking someone with consumer knowledge and experience in quantitative consumer and sensory methodologies to join our research staff for a six-month contract. Consumers’ preferences and willingness to pay have an important role in the activity since they will be involved in the development and market of the new products.

**Main duties and responsibilities****Research:**

- Design quantitative consumer research
- Carry out quantitative data analysis
- Write manuscripts for research papers
- Meet deadlines within a project plan
- Disseminate research findings and establish a reputation through participation in conferences, exhibitions, etc.

**Enterprise & Outreach:**

- Recruit consumers and carry out quantitative consumer research
- Write progress reports and present work to project partners
- Collaborate with VTT and the other partners of the project
- Attend relevant seminars, conferences, exhibitions and other events

**Leadership & Management:**

- May supervise undergraduate & postgraduate students as appropriate

- Undertake project-related administration such as organising regular project or client meetings, departmental presentations or seminars

### **Supervision received**

The person appointed will report to Dr Daniele Asioli and Prof. Lisa Methven. The post holder should be able to work as an independent researcher, but will receive supervision from Dr. Daniele Asioli and Prof. Lisa Methven.

### **Supervision given**

The successful candidate may have the opportunity to provide supervision to undergraduate and postgraduate project students as appropriate.

### **Contact**

Colleagues within the University, particularly within the Schools of Agriculture, Policy and Development and Food and Nutritional Sciences. There will be frequent contact with the external collaborators and the partners of the project.

### **Terms and conditions**

Part-time, appointment is fixed term until December 2020.

This document outlines the duties required for the time being of the post to indicate the level of responsibility. It is not a comprehensive or exhaustive list and the line manager may vary duties from time to time which do not change the general character of the job or the level of responsibility entailed.

**Date assessed:** 17 December 2019

## PERSON SPECIFICATION

Job Title	School/Department
Post Doctoral Research Assistant in Consumer Food Studies	School of Agriculture, Policy and Development/ Food and Nutritional Sciences

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
<b>Skills Required</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to design and perform quantitative consumer studies</li> <li>• Ability to analyze quantitative data and reporting</li> <li>• Good knowledge of statistical software packages (for example, R, XLSTAT, STAT)</li> <li>• Good organizational skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong oral and written communication skills</li> </ul>
<b>Attainment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PhD in an appropriate specialist area related to sensory/consumer/science</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post Doctoral experience in an appropriate food area related to sensory/consumer/science</li> </ul>
<b>Knowledge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sensory science</li> <li>• Consumer science</li> <li>• Quantitative consumer research methodologies</li> <li>• Applied statistics</li> <li>• Project management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experimental consumer and sensory methodologies (e.g., CATA, preference-rating, etc.)</li> <li>• New food product development</li> </ul>
<b>Relevant Experience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To have sufficient experience in consumer science to run sessions independently</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience of working with the food industry</li> </ul>
<b>Disposition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good communication and written skills in English</li> <li>• Good time management skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good communication and written skills in</li> </ul>
<b>Other</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Availability to travel in the countries of the project</li> </ul>	

Completed by: Daniele Asioli	Date: 17 December 2019
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