

JOB DESCRIPTION

Vacancy reference:	SRF34754
Post Title:	Post-doctoral research assistant in Agricultural Economics
Grade:	Grade 6
School/Department:	School of Agriculture, Policy and Development
Reports to:	Philip Jones
Responsible for:	

Purpose

We seek a motivated and versatile post-doctoral researcher to join the Applied Economics and Marketing Department to work on a 5-year BBSRC funded project to model impacts resulting from future changes to the UK food system, designed to benefit disadvantaged communities. The likely impacts to be modelled include those to food prices and demand, as well as land use and other environmental impacts throughout the life cycles of selected food products. The project would provide an excellent opportunity for you to gain experience of a diverse range of agricultural and food economics research challenges and techniques and potentially develop your own skills and research interests that align to the project.

Main duties and responsibilities

The post-doctoral researcher will be responsible for:

Conducting literature reviews and collating economic data and compiling datasets;

Collecting data for, and undertaking, Life Cycle Assessment using industry-standard software packages such as SimaPro.

Assisting in the construction and operation of bespoke, large-scale, models of agricultural land use using Linear programming techniques;

Assisting in the design and administration of surveys of consumer acceptance and willingness to pay for newly formulated food products and analysis of collected data using econometric techniques;

Assisting with the design, data population and operation of novel models for the translation of demand for food products into their constituent agricultural commodities;

Liaising with project partners and sharing your knowledge and expertise with colleagues, including via verbal presentations and written communications;

The interpretation and reporting of the outputs of all of the modelling exercises referred to above;

Undertaking project-related administration (e.g. organising project meetings, workshops);

Presenting research findings at project meetings, knowledge exchange events, public engagement activities, and scientific conferences;

Contributing to the writing of papers for publication in leading peer-reviewed academic journals and other relevant media;

You will need to be well organised, versatile and capable of managing multiple tasks simultaneously.

Supervision received

Supervision and one-to-one training will be provided by: Philip Jones, Professor Kelvin Balcombe; Dr Matthieu Arnoult, Dr Eugene Mohareb and Professor Carol Wagstaff.

Supervision given**Contact**

Frequent contact required with multiple investigators from other departments of the University of Reading, University of Sussex, Cranfield University, University of Plymouth, and several industry and community partners.

Terms and conditions

This is a full-time, fixed term contract for 57 months. There are no specific hours of work, but the appointee will be required to work such hours as are necessary to carry out the duties associated with the post. Requests for part time or flexible working will be considered.

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:

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Job Title	School/Department
Post-doctoral research assistant in Agricultural and Food Economics	School of Agriculture, Policy and Development, Department of Applied Economics and Marketing

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Skills Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent communication skills (oral, written, presentation etc) • Excellent collaborative skills. • Excellent Organisational and Administrative skills including a proven ability to work to deadlines and to work independently. • Excellent numeracy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience working with stakeholders in food or agricultural policy • Ability to work independently and take initiative • Willingness to work selflessly and flexibly in a team • Ability to plan and prioritise work to meet deadlines Willingness to travel nationally and internationally
Attainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PhD in Agricultural economics, food economics, Agriculture, or a related discipline, or 5 years' experience working at a similar academic level in a related discipline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of previous research activity (publications, conference presentations, awards) and future scholarly output (working papers, research proposals, and ability to outline a research project.
Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge and experience of at least one quantitative economics technique, such as econometrics or systems modelling. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of the UK agriculture or food system and / or agricultural and rural policy • Experience with designing surveys, either online or face to face. • An understanding of the operational requirements for a successful research project
Relevant Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience in econometrics, land use or other systems modelling. • Experience in data handling and statistical analysis. • A demonstrated commitment to research and publications with a specific interest in agricultural and food research. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of social-science research with consumers, farmers or other supply chain actors • Experience with an industry-standard analytics package such as R, SPSS or SAS

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience writing research findings for publication in peer reviewed journals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience with Matlab or similar econometrics package • Ability to construct models in an optimisation package such as GAMMS • Experience with Life Cycle Analysis using SIMA Pro software or similar
Disposition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patience required to work with colleagues outside of the agricultural economics discipline • Drive and ambition to undertake methodologically and conceptually challenging work • Ability to work independently and take initiative • Willingness to work selflessly and flexibly in a team • Ability to plan and prioritise work to meet deadlines • Willingness to travel nationally and internationally 	
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

Completed by: Philip Jones	Date:02 December 2020
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