

# JOB DESCRIPTION

<b>Vacancy reference:</b>	SRF40682
<b>Post Title:</b>	Postdoctoral Research Assistant in Food Science
<b>Grade:</b>	Grade 6
<b>School/Department:</b>	Food and Nutritional Sciences
<b>Reports to:</b>	Prof Colette Fagan
<b>Responsible for:</b>	

## Purpose

The FoodSEqual project is part of the UK Transforming Food Systems initiative. It is a 5 year program of work which focuses on providing UK citizens of socio-culturally diverse disadvantaged communities with choice and agency over the food they consume. Our vision is to achieve this by co-developing new products, new supply chains and new policy frameworks that deliver an affordable, attractive, healthy & sustainable diet. The project is led by the University of Reading, collaborating with Cranfield University, and the Universities of Kent, Plymouth, Sussex. The project has both nutritional and environmental goals; aiming to identify and implement innovation within the food system that will deliver improved nutritional public health and wellbeing for citizens from disadvantaged communities with enhanced environmental sustainability.

This postdoctoral researcher will be responsible for translating the co-created product briefs developed in an earlier stage of the project into concept products. This will require the researcher to develop pilot scale process for the production of the products. They will need to consider selection of raw materials and processing technology to ensuring best use of resources, while ensuring product safety, nutritional value and community expectations. The researcher will be responsible for managing and manufacturing the concept samples potentially in conjunction with industrial partners. These samples will be used by the sensory and consumer science team in the project to carry out consumer assessment and evaluation.

## Main duties and responsibilities

- To be able to develop food products at bench and pilot scale
- To carry out chemical and physical analysis of food materials
- To be able to manage the production of food products according to good manufacturing practices
- To be able to analyse and interpret quantitative data
- To carry out statistical analysis
- To write progress reports and present work to partners
- To be able to write manuscripts for research papers for publication in leading academic journals and other relevant media
- To be able to meet deadlines within a project plan
- To work within multiple multidisciplinary teams
- To collaborate with colleagues within and outside the University in the development of original research and work within various multidisciplinary teams
- Carry out independent research and supervise the work of research assistants
- Disseminate research findings and establish a national reputation through participation in national conferences, exhibitions etc.

- To create new knowledge at the forefront of the discipline
- Liaise with industry partners, academics, community researchers and citizens external to the University
- Design solutions to meet the project needs, including costing and other practical considerations
- Attend relevant seminars, conferences, exhibitions and other events
- May supervise the research work of students and technical staff
- Undertake project-related administration such as organising regular project meetings, departmental presentations or seminars

### **Supervision received**

The person appointed will report to the project Co-Investigator, Prof Colette Fagan. The post holder should be able to work as an independent researcher but will receive supervision from Prof Colette Fagan and Prof Methven.

### **Supervision given**

The successful candidate will be expected to provide supervision to undergraduate and postgraduate students project students, and technical staff, as appropriate.

### **Contact**

Colleagues within the Department of Food and Nutritional Sciences, collaborating institutions, and university suppliers.

### **Terms and conditions**

Full time, appointment is fixed term for up to 30 months.

There are no specified hours of work, but you will be required to work such hours as are necessary to carry out the duties associated with the post. Overtime is not payable.

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 Jan 2022**

# PERSON SPECIFICATION

Job Title	School/Department
Postdoctoral Research Assistant	Food and Nutritional Sciences

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
<b>Skills Required</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ability to carry out a diverse range of activities within food product development</li> <li>Ability to work in a pilot plant environment</li> <li>Good organisational skills</li> <li>Strong oral and written communication skills</li> <li>Good project management and time management skills</li> <li>Excellent computer skills</li> <li>Excellent analytical and problem-solving skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ability to operate food processing equipment at pilot scale</li> <li>Good writing skills, for example previous experience in writing reports for partners and research papers.</li> </ul>
<b>Attainment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PhD in an appropriate area related to food sciences</li> <li>A good honours degree in relevant subject</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appropriate publication record for career level</li> </ul>
<b>Knowledge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Knowledge within relevant areas of Food Science</li> <li>Knowledge of relevant data and statistical analysis methods</li> <li>Knowledge of Food Safety</li> </ul>	
<b>Relevant Experience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sufficient to undertaken food product development activity and assess time impact of processing and formulation on product quality</li> <li>Experience of public speaking at events/exhibitions etc.</li> <li>Experience of managing a project</li> <li>Experience of building and maintaining external contacts/partners in order to drive mutual interests</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Experience of coordinating own research activity withing a multi-disiplinary research project</li> <li>Experience of working with the external collaborators</li> <li>Experience of supervising students</li> </ul>
<b>Disposition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disposition and ability to work independently, but also collaboratively with team members at all levels, in a multi-organisation project.</li> <li>Strongly motivated.</li> <li>Good interpersonal skills</li> </ul>	

Completed by: Prof Colette Fagan	Date: 17/01/2022
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