

JOB DESCRIPTION

Vacancy reference:	SRF26799
Post Title:	Postdoctoral Research Assistant
Grade:	6
School/Department:	Agriculture, Policy and Development – ADFCS Research Group
Reports to:	Head of Research Group
Responsible for:	No staff

Purpose

Undertaking research and knowledge exchange in animal and dairy sciences.

Main duties and responsibilities

The successful applicant will contribute to the research and knowledge exchange activities of the Animal, Dairy and Food Chain Sciences Research Group and the Centre for Dairy Research (CEDAR). Abilities to contribute to ongoing research in the areas of reducing environmental impact of animal production are important, including current research on multi-species forage production and utilization (<http://www.reading.ac.uk/apd/research/apd-resfpqdfp.aspx>) and measurement of digestive efficiency and methane emission (<http://www.smartcow.eu/project/objectives/>), as well as the development of a research agenda that can attract funding.

The successful candidate will be expected to be heavily involved in:

- Undertaking ruminant research with particular emphasis on dairy nutrition and forages. The research will involve work with animals and forages and will include agronomy and animal digestion trials, laboratory and data analyses, and reporting of results, including preparation of manuscripts for publication.
- Development of new research funding from industry and non-industry sources.

In addition, the successful candidate will also be involved with:

- Knowledge exchange activities for the School, Research Group, and CEDAR.
- Some teaching of undergraduate students.
- Some support/supervision for undergraduate and postgraduate student research.

Supervision received

In addition to line manager, the post holder will receive day to day supervision from appropriate senior researchers as necessary.

Supervision given

Occasionally to research technicians and students as noted above.

Contact

The work involves facilities and laboratories in more than one building and location with a primary focus on research undertaken at the Centre for Dairy Research. The post holder may be expected to liaise with a number of units within the University, particularly other Departments in the Faculty and with collaborating Universities and Research Institutes around the EU.

Terms and conditions

The appointment is full time and fixed term for one year initially.

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: January 2019

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Job Title	School/Department
Postdoctoral Research Fellow	SAPD – ADFCS Research Group

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Skills Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to work with large animals in a research environment • Ability to analyse data statistically and write papers for publication in scientific journals • Experience in the laboratory for analysis of dietary components • Ability to communicate research results to a wide audience, including practitioners and members of the public • Good attention to detail. • Ability to work as part of a team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to develop long-term relationships with funding bodies and companies and secure funding
Attainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PhD in animal science or other appropriate science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training in animal and laboratory-related Health and Safety legislation and operation.
Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ruminant nutrition and physiology • Factors determining the excretion of nitrogen and/or greenhouse gasses by ruminants • Forage management for ruminant animal production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal (Scientific Procedures) Act, or comparable legislation, and its enforcement

Relevant Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of working with cattle and/or sheep in an experimental environment • Laboratory work as above • Ability to organise and prioritise tasks, work under pressure and meet deadlines • Publication of research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working in a university or related environment • Presenting work at major conferences • Lecturing to students • Knowledge exchange through interaction with farmers and the wider public
Disposition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capable of unsupervised working and taking initiative • Ability to remain calm and think clearly under pressure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective public relations
Other		

Completed by: Professor Chris Reynolds	Date: January 2019
--	--------------------