



Candidate Information

Position:	Research Assistant in Animal Behaviour
School/Department:	Institute for Global Food Security
Reference:	20/108386
Closing Date:	Monday 26 October 2020
Salary:	£28,331 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date:	Monday 9 November 2020
Duration:	Until 30 April 2022

JOB PURPOSE:

To be an active member of the EU funded project Healthy Livestock, assisting in the planning and delivery of research activities associated with the early detection of health and welfare challenges based on changes in pig behaviour and the effect of environmental enrichment on pig health and welfare, so that the overall research objectives of the project are met.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Undertake research activities that include behavioural data collection from on farm experimental work, in accordance with experimental protocols developed by the research team, which includes the Job Holder.
2. Collaborate with AFBI staff, who are close collaborators in the project, to materialise the experimental activities of the project.
3. Carry out preliminary analysis and formatting of data in a manner consistent with the project needs and present these to staff working on Healthy Livestock project.
4. Present regular progress reports on research to members of the research group and to members of the School Research Themes.
5. Contribute to the production of research reports and publications and proposals.
6. Carry out undergraduate supervision/demonstrating/teaching duties under direction.
7. Carry out routine administrative duties as requested, e.g. arranging research group meetings, produce meeting minutes, maintaining research group website.
8. Read academic papers, journals and textbooks to keep abreast of developments.
9. Carry out any other duties designated by line manager and which fall within the general remit of the post.

Planning and Organising:

1. Plan own day-to-day activity within the framework of the agreed research programme.
2. Contribute to the planning of the experimental programme, development of experimental protocols, reports and publications etc as required.
3. Coordinate and liaise with other members of the research group over work progress.

Resource Management Responsibilities:

1. Ensure research resources, both at QUB and AFBI, are used in an effective and efficient manner.
2. Provide guidance as required to support any UG or PGR students who may be assisting with research.

Internal and External Relationships:

1. Liaise with staff working on Healthy Livestock project and support the activities of the Project Manager and associated PDRA in relation to the project.
2. Liaise, when requested, with AFBI staff and with external partners working on WP2&3 of the project.
3. Make internal and external contacts to develop knowledge and understanding relevant to the project.
4. Attend and contribute to relevant meetings.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Degree in Biology, Veterinary Science, or other relevant Science.
2. At least 1-year recent relevant research experience which includes experience in:
 - Behavioural data collection
 - Implementation of experimental protocols
 - Collation and analysis of behavioural data
3. Methodical approach to project management and meticulous in regard to experimental procedures and record keeping.
4. Sufficient breadth and depth of specialist knowledge.
5. Ability to interact and communicate effectively with research colleagues, support staff and networks.
6. Ability to present scientific arguments and data in a clear, concise and confident manner.
7. Ability to present regular progress reports on research to members of the research group or to external audiences to disseminate and publicise research findings.
8. Ability to communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing.
9. Ability to carry out routine administrative tasks associated with the research projects and laboratory maintenance.
10. Practical problem-solving skills and independence of thought are required.
11. Ability to assess and organise resources.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. MSc degree in Animal Behaviour or equivalent qualification.
2. Experience of experimentation on livestock.
3. Experience in animal sampling (blood, faeces etc).
4. Experience of using statistical packages for behavioural data analysis (eg R).
5. Experience of assisting in preparation of materials for publication and presentations at national/international conferences.
6. Publication(s) in peer-reviewed journals commensurate with career stage.