



UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN
JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE	Research Assistant (Advanced Cooking and Cooling Technology)				
DEPARTMENT	National Centre for Food Manufacturing				
LOCATION	NCFM Holbeach				
JOB NUMBER	COS181	GRADE	6	DATE	April 2015
REPORTS TO	Principal Investigator				

CONTEXT

A satellite campus of the University of Lincoln, The National Centre for Food Manufacturing is a major resource for the UK's food industry with over 250 major companies accessing courses, technical services and research. Our clients include the major national and international food manufacturing businesses and leading supermarkets and we collaborate with many international partners and universities. The NCFM has outstanding sector-focused facilities, including a state-of-the-art food factory demonstrating cutting edge food automation.

The NCFM has been successful in securing an industrial research project with one of its partner companies – the OAL Group, a leading supplier of innovative technologies to the food industry and the project managers for this work. Other partners are BOC, the leading international supplier of cryogenic technology and Iceland Manufacturing Limited who supply frozen ready meals to the Iceland Retail arm. The research will explore the use of continuous cooking and cooling technology for sauces and liquid food products, ultimately developing a fully functional system for actual factory deployment. The system will lead to reduced energy consumption and material wastage in the food supply chain, as well as adding value to the products sold through improved product quality.

To achieve the objectives of the research programme the Research Assistant needs to have experience of experimental design and analytical techniques, along with knowledge of industrial cooking and cooling systems in the food manufacturing industry. The post holder will therefore require a broad understanding of process technology and food science to be able to work across a range of aspects. The post holder will need to engage regularly with individuals and teams in the partners' businesses as well as within the University and hence they will require a confident and outwardly facing disposition along with excellent communication and team working skills.

The post offers an outstanding opportunity for a committed researcher to work within a dynamic, industry facing university environment and gain valuable experience in partnering in research with 3 major businesses all of whom are at the cutting edge of technological innovation for the food sector. It is intended that the project will provide an opportunity to generate published outcomes (subject to agreement around the detail by partners).

The post holder will be based with the team at the National Centre for Food Manufacturing but travel to the industrial sites of BOC, OAL and Iceland Manufacturing will be required. OAL will provide the successful applicant with a bursary of £750 towards initial accommodation costs

The post is fixed term for 2 years and whilst no guarantee that the role will be extended beyond 2 years can be given, this type of work is growing and it is hoped that opportunities beyond the project's funding period will be available.

JOB PURPOSE

The Research Assistant is responsible for conducting research on the above project, as directed by the Principal Investigator(s).

The Research Assistant is responsible for ensuring their own personal effectiveness as a team member and for assisting the Principal Investigator in ensuring that high levels of communication are maintained with the project partners, particularly with the Lead Partner.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Literature Surveys

To undertake literature surveys and other state-of-the-art investigations and to prepare reports as required.

Research Activities

To perform specified research under the direction and with advice from the Principal Investigator, to generate original knowledge, contribute to decisions about research direction, and to prepare reports on results, as required.

Plan own day-to-day research activity within the context of the required research programme, exhibiting a high degree of autonomy.

Contribute to the production of research outputs, including reports, papers and other publications, and preparation for and presentation at international research conferences.

Liaison and Networking

Liaise with internal and external collaborators, and with colleagues in the Department, maintaining positive and effective working relationships; this may include liaison with senior personnel in other organisations including collaborators, sponsors and clients.

Participate in internal (and where appropriate external) research activities, including seminars, research meetings and continuous professional development activities. This may include research meetings and seminars organised by the external partners.

Teaching Support

Engage in teaching support activities, up to a maximum of six hours per week * (see additional information).

Engage in training and demonstration exercises with the staff of the industrial partners and their customers to enhance their own knowledge and skills in the use and application of the project's equipment and underpinning science and technologies.

Development

Where appropriate and agreed, register for and undertake a PhD or other specified research degree.

In addition to the above, undertake such duties as may reasonably be requested and that are commensurate with the nature and grade of the post.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Scope and dimensions of the role

The role is for a fixed term but it is envisaged that the post holder will help pursue opportunities to further the work of the project.

The Research Assistant contract stipulates a teaching support requirement in the sense of supporting normal teaching activity. This is not a feature of the role although the post holder may contribute to such activities on an occasional basis along with supporting the training and development needs of the industrial partners, their employees and customers.

Key working relationships/networks

Internal	External
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Principal Lecturers• Dean and Senior Team• NCFM team• School of Engineering Team• Colleagues in the University	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Olympus Automation Group• Iceland Manufacturing• BOC• Customers and clients of the above• Industrial partners in NCFM• TSB (Technology Strategy Board Representatives)



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PERSON SPECIFICATION

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Selection Criteria	Essential (E) or Desirable (D)	Where Evidenced Application (A) Interview (I) Presentation (P) References (R)
Qualifications:		
Honours degree in relevant subject (1 st , 2.1 or equivalent)	E	A
Masters level degree in relevant subject or equivalent	D	A
Experience:		
Some experience of relevant research methods	D	A/I
Experience of undertaking research in this discipline	E	A/I
Experience specific to project/area, e.g. experimental methods and project management	E	A/I
Experience of working in practical food research and experimentation	E	A/I
Experience working with industrial partners	D	A/I
Industrial experience in the food industry	D	A/I
Skills and Knowledge:		
Ability to conduct original research in the subject area	E	A/I
Excellent written communication, including the ability to write reports and research outputs	E	A/I
Ability to prioritise own workload and work to specified deadlines under pressure	E	A/I
Knowledge Specific to project/area	E	A/I
Ability to communicate complex subjects to students	E	A/I
Competencies and Personal Attributes:		
Flexible approach to workload	E	I
Ability to work on own and as part of a team	E	A/I
Enthusiasm and commitment	E	I
Business Requirements:		
Ability to travel to partners' businesses (not all of which are accessible by public transport)	E	I
Enhanced DBS check	E	

Essential Requirements are those, without which, a candidate would not be able to do the job. **Desirable Requirements** are those which would be useful for the post holder to possess and will be considered when more than one applicant meets the essential requirements.

Author	VB	HRBA	HDR
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