



**UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN
JOB DESCRIPTION**

JOB TITLE	Post Doctoral Research Associate in Knowledge Exchange and Social Science				
DEPARTMENT	Lincoln Institute for Agri-food Technology				
LOCATION	University of Lincoln Campuses				
JOB NUMBER	COS972	GRADE	7	DATE	March 2023
REPORTS TO	Professor of Sustainable Agri Food Systems				

CONTEXT

The University of Lincoln robotics team is working on a large project with the agri-robotics industry, towards developing an open development platform for robotic crop harvesting. The platform will facilitate open and standardised access to the core software and hardware components providing key functionality such as autonomy, safety or perception enabling rapid adoption by the industry and academia. The core functionality will enable further development and customisation which can be privately exploited by the industry, leading to faster adoption of more reliable robotic technology in agriculture. Such a strategy will lead to step changes in farming productivity and help to alleviate global problems with the availability of a workforce in the sector. In this project, the principle will be demonstrated by developing commercial robotic systems for tomato and strawberry harvesting.

JOB PURPOSE

We are looking to recruit a social science Research Fellow to complement our agri-robotics research team to develop more in-depth knowledge and understanding of the human-robot interaction on the farm.

The Research Associate is responsible for conducting research on the project, as directed by the Principal Investigator and the Co-I, and is expected to operate with a significant degree of autonomy.

The post holder may be required to help supervise the work of more junior researchers.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Literature and Desktop Surveys and Academic Writing

Undertake literature and desktop surveys and other investigations of the state-of-the-art, and prepare reports as required.

Lead in the production of high-quality research outputs, including reports, papers and other publications of national/international standing.

Programme of Research

Design and undertake a programme of research under the direction of the Principal Investigator, demonstrating a significant level of autonomy.

The social science aspects of this project will focus on delivering food production which minimises its environmental impact and delivers to social expectations; developing standards for safe and responsible use of robotics and robotic systems; developing and assessing socio-economic performance metrics for the use of robotics on farm and framing the human-robot interaction and how that influences industry norms, work practices and perceptions of identity. The role will involve close collaboration with industry and academic partners and engagement directly with farming businesses.

Project Management

Perform project management activities, planning, scheduling, monitoring and reporting on progress of research projects.

Liaison and Networking

Identify and liaise with internal and external collaborators, and with colleagues in the Department, maintaining positive and effective working relationships.

Internal Research Activities

Participate in and help to organise internal research activities, including seminars, research meetings and conferences.

Continuous Professional Development

Undertake continuous professional development activities.

Grant Applications

Contribute to the production of grant applications.

Teaching Support

Engage in teaching support activities, up to a maximum of six hours per week, possibly including leading a small number of units (no more than two per annum).

Aid in the supervision of postgraduate research students.

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

Applicants should have, or expect to soon obtain, a PhD in a relevant area. The role requires expertise in systematic literature review; qualitative research methods particularly discourse and content analysis; interview techniques, designing and leading facilitated workshops and dissemination activities. Excellent IT skills (ideally NVivo, SPSS or similar). Experience of authoring, or co-authoring academic outputs (e.g. journal articles, research reports).

Key working relationships/networks

Internal	External
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Principal Investigator• Co-Investigators• Head of Research Centre• Head of School• Other research and academic staff within the school	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research collaborators• Sponsors and clients



**UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN
PERSON SPECIFICATION**

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Selection Criteria	Essential (E) or Desirable (D)	Where Evidenced Application (A) Interview (I) Presentation (P) References (R)
Qualifications:		
PhD or equivalent (good candidates may be accepted with a PhD pending, subject to publication record)	E	A
Extensive knowledge specific to project/area	E	A/I
Experience:		
Extensive experience of relevant research methods	D	A/I
Authorship of research outputs of national/international standing	E	A/I
Experience of research in specific project area	E	A/I
Teaching support	D	A/I
Skills and Knowledge:		
Ability to design, conduct and project manage 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
Ability to communicate complex subjects orally	E	A/I
Skills specific to project/area	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	I
Enthusiasm and commitment	E	I

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	LM	HRBP	AH
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