

**UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN
JOB DESCRIPTION**



JOB TITLE	Post-Doctoral Research Associate in Sustainable Agri-food Systems				
DEPARTMENT	Lincoln Institute for Agri-Food Technology				
LOCATION	Lincoln Campuses				
JOB NUMBER	CHS116	GRADE	7	DATE	May 2024
REPORTS TO	Lilian Korir				

CONTEXT

We are seeking a Post-Doctoral Research Associate with a research profile in participatory research methods to work between the Lincoln Institute for Agri-Food Technology (LIAT) and the Department of Geography, University of Lincoln. This role is part of a British Academy-funded ODA Interdisciplinary Research Project focusing on underutilised crops in Kenya, specifically in the counties of Bomet and Baringo, where mainstream crop yields are declining due to diseases, pests including invasives and extreme weather. The project is being conducted in collaboration with the National Museums of Kenya in Nairobi and regional stations, and Moi University in Eldoret, Kenya.

The project aims to explore the historical changes in the significance of underutilised crops, reimagine possible and preferred futures for these crops, and revive their value in the public imagination. The selected Post-doctoral Research Associate (PDRA) will engage in participatory social research, including gathering and analysing oral histories and interviews, to understand the socio-cultural shifts that have led to the underutilisation of indigenous crops. This research intends to co-create knowledge with local farming and food communities and develop innovative approaches for sustainable food production and consumption.

Candidates for this position should hold (or be near to completing) a PhD in fields such as History, Agricultural Economics, Human Geography, Food Security, Agricultural Sciences, or related areas. Evidence of authorship of research outputs of international standing is essential, as is the ability to work as part of an interdisciplinary team, including excellent written and spoken communication skills. Experience in participatory social research, qualitative research methods and/or oral history are highly desirable. Language skills relevant to the Kenyan project areas are an added advantage.

The successful candidate is expected to start as soon as possible, with the post available for 18 months until the project's conclusion on 31 March 2026. This position offers an exceptional opportunity for an individual aiming to shape and contribute to high-impact, multidisciplinary research.

The successful candidate will be expected to meet regularly with other project members and travel to Kenya for field visits and campaigns. Their main responsibility will be to design, implement, carry out, and publish the interdisciplinary research proposed for the project and potentially seek additional funding to expand the research program.

JOB PURPOSE

The Post-Doctoral Research Associate is responsible for conducting research on the project, as directed by the Principal Investigator, and is expected to operate with a significant degree of autonomy. They are not expected to operate as an independent researcher.

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

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Literature Surveys

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

Programme of Research

Undertake a programme of research under the direction of the Principal Investigator, demonstrating a significant level of autonomy.

Shape and contribute to the production of high quality research outputs, including reports, papers and other publications of national/international standing.

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

An opportunity to 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

This is primarily a research-focussed role, with clear objectives in terms of project deliveries.

Key working relationships/networks

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



**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 the project/area	E	A/I
Experience:		
Extensive experience of relevant research methods (participatory social research, oral history and/or futures methodologies)	E	A/I
Authorship of research outputs of national/international standing	E	A/I
Experience of research in specific project area	E	A/I
Experience of designing and implementing fieldwork	D	A/I
Experience of using analytical software packages i.e. NVIVO	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 the project/area	E	A/I
Ability to gather and work with qualitative datasets	E	A/I
Competencies and Personal Attributes:		
Flexible approach to workload	E	I
Ability to work on your 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	LK	PBP	AH
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