



**UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN  
JOB DESCRIPTION**

<b>JOB TITLE</b>	Research Assistant (Agri-Food Science)				
<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	National Centre for Food Manufacturing				
<b>LOCATION</b>	Holbeach Campus				
<b>JOB NUMBER</b>	CHS134	<b>GRADE</b>	6	<b>DATE</b>	July 2024
<b>REPORTS TO</b>	Associate Professor				

**CONTEXT**

We are seeking a Research Assistant with knowledge and expertise in laboratory based agri-food/food science to join our dynamic team at the University of Lincoln's National Centre for Food Manufacturing (NCFM). The Research Assistant will work under the supervision of experienced research on a business-led collaboration funded by Innovate UK.

The project will look at the nutrition potential of regenerative agriculture – an important focus for Little Origins work – as well as designing new product development processes that place nutrient-density at their core and providing customers with transparency around the nutritional quality and freshness of baby food products.

The business aims to provide access to safe, healthy, and fresh food for children across the UK by improving the nutritional profile of food products for children, and addressing concerns around obesity (which has reached 14.4% amongst 4-5 year olds in the UK) and the rise in processed foods.

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 global 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 Research Assistant will contribute to literature review as required in the project, preparing samples for laboratory analysis, laboratory data analysis and reporting.

The Research Assistant will have the opportunity to work together with other Researchers including Post Graduate Research (PGR) students exploring other food science related projects.

The Research Assistant will ideally have a degree in Food Science or a relevant sciences discipline. Essential skills include: excellent communication and writing skills, critical thinking skills, problem solving skill, collaboration skills, attention to detail, accurate record keeping, flexible attitude to work, proactive and willing to learn new skills and to undertake training on key pieces of equipment as required.

The data produced and analysed as part of these projects will be transferred to a range of outputs including interim project report and presentations therefore knowledge or experience of scientific writing is essential. Working with multidisciplinary team and industrial partners will be integral to this role, therefore effective communication and interpersonal skills are required.

The post offers an outstanding opportunity for a motivated and committed researcher to work within a dynamic, industry facing university environment and gain valuable experience in partnering in research with businesses, some of whom are at the cutting edge of technological innovation for the food sector.

#### **JOB PURPOSE**

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

#### **Specific to this post**

- The post holder will need to engage regularly with individuals and teams in the partner businesses, as well as within the University and hence good team working and communication skills are essential.

## KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

### Literature Surveys

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

### Research

To perform specified research under the direction and with advice from the Principal Investigator, to generate original knowledge 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 project outputs, including reports, and preparation of slides for project meetings.

### Liaison and Networking

Liaise with internal collaborators, and with colleagues in the School, maintaining positive and effective working relationships.

Participate in internal project meetings and continuous professional development activities.

### Teaching Support

Engage in laboratory-based teaching support activities, up to a maximum of six hours per week where appropriate and agreed.

### PhD

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 successful candidate will preferably have a background in food science and evidence of research experience in related area to food science. The knowledge of GLP and experience of working in a science laboratory is essential. Also the experience of working with industrial partners would be advantage.

The role will provide support for other colleagues working on the project and collaborative work is anticipated.

### Key working relationships/networks

Internal	External
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dean of NCFM and Deputies</li><li>• Associate Professors</li><li>• NCFM team</li><li>• Colleagues in Research and Enterprise</li><li>• Colleagues in the University</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Small businesses accessing support</li><li>• NCFM's industrial partners</li><li>• Large food businesses and retailers</li><li>• Research and academic institutions</li><li>• Accredited laboratory</li><li>• Research funding bodies</li><li>• Industry bodies</li></ul>



**UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN  
PERSON SPECIFICATION**

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<b>Selection Criteria</b>	<b>Essential (E) or Desirable (D)</b>	<b>Where Evidenced Application (A) Interview (I) Presentation (P) References (R)</b>
<b>Qualifications:</b>		
Honours Degree in relevant subject (1 <sup>st</sup> , 2.1 or equivalent MSc) – Agri-Food Science, Food Science or related subject	<b>E</b>	<b>A</b>
Post graduate level qualification in relevant subject	<b>E</b>	<b>A</b>
Extensive knowledge specific to the area	<b>E</b>	<b>A/I</b>
<b>Experiences</b>		
Experience of relevant laboratory based research methods	<b>E</b>	<b>A/I</b>
Experience of research in specific project area	<b>E</b>	<b>A/I</b>
Experience of undertaking trials and research with industrial partners	<b>D</b>	<b>A/I</b>
Experience of undertaking research with small businesses	<b>D</b>	<b>A/I</b>
Experience of working in the food industry	<b>D</b>	<b>A/I</b>
<b>Skills and Knowledge:</b>		
Ability to conduct original research in the subject area	<b>E</b>	<b>A/I</b>
Excellent written communication, including the ability to write reports and research outputs	<b>E</b>	<b>A/I</b>
Ability to prioritise own workload and work to specified deadlines under pressure	<b>E</b>	<b>A/I</b>
Ability to communicate externally and internally on the phone, via email and face to face meeting to impact project details to both specialist and non-specialist audiences	<b>E</b>	<b>A/I</b>
Ability to work collaboratively within a team	<b>E</b>	<b>A/I</b>
<b>Competencies and Personal Attributes:</b>		
Flexible approach to workload	<b>E</b>	<b>I</b>
Ability to work on own and as part of a team	<b>E</b>	<b>I</b>
Enthusiasm and commitment	<b>E</b>	<b>I</b>
Have a positive can-do attitude	<b>E</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>Business Requirements:</b>		
Ability to travel to the premises of businesses (many of which are not accessible by public transport) and to other campuses of the University	<b>E</b>	<b>I</b>

**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.

<b>Author</b>	BO	<b>HRBA</b>	HR
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