D57537R - Research Associate
Faculty of Science, Agriculture & Engineering
Agriculture, Food & Rural Development
Agriculture, Food & Rural Development
Research
Fixed Term
Full Time
Newcastle upon Tyne
Salary: £29,301 to £33,943 (with progression to £38,183)

Closing Date: 16 February 2017

Newcastle University is the leading UK Institute for all matters relevant to non-ruminant livestock research. Our ambitious and exciting vision is to work at local, national and international levels, leading innovation and sustainable development in agriculture and rural sectors.

You will support our work in enhancing the sustainability of non-ruminant livestock systems, by improving their efficiency whilst taking into account new development in breeding and feeding such livestock. Specific responsibilities will include:
- Leading activities on environmental impact assessment and simulation modelling of nutrient flows in livestock systems.
- Using initiative and creativity to develop existing or new simulation agri-environmental models.
- Using the models to answer specific research questions, e.g. "How do we feed new livestock genotypes to reduce environmental impact?"

An awarded PhD in a relevant area of science (biological or environmental impact modelling / assessment), clear understanding of simulation modelling of environmental impact or biological processes, as well experience of undertaking agri-environmental research are essential requirements.

This post is available fixed term for 30 months from 01.03.2017, and is full time

Click here for further details
The School holds a bronze Athena SWAN award in addition to the University's Silver Athena SWAN award in recognition of our good employment practices for the advancement of gender equality, and the University holds the HR Excellence in Research award for our work to support the career development of our researchers. We are also a member of the Euraxess network.

RESEARCHER JOB DETAILS

School of Agriculture Food and Rural Development

Research Associate

Grade: F Vacancy Ref: D57537R

Main Duties and Responsibilities

1. Contribution to the research programme of the School under the clear guidance of Principal Investigator
2. Lead the day to date running of the activities associated with specific duties of an EU grant that deals with environmental impact assessment and simulation modelling of nutrient flows in livestock systems.
3. Co-ordinate own work with that of others, deal with problems which may affect the achievement of research objectives and contribute to the planning of the project.
4. Use initiative and creativity to develop simulation models, identify, analyse and interpret research data and draw conclusions on the outcomes.
5. Present information on research progress and outcomes to Principal Investigator and relevant groups overseeing the research project
6. Maintain relationships with project partners and sponsors and assist with flow of information between project partners and stakeholders
7. Write up results from own research activity and provide input into the research project's dissemination, in relevant form (reports, papers, chapters, book)
8. Work to deadlines and manage, with support, competing priorities

Research Role Profile

As part of our commitment to career development for research staff, the University has developed 4 levels of research role profiles. These profiles set out firstly the generic competences and responsibilities expected of role holders at each level and secondly the general qualifications and experiences needed for entry at a particular level. It is unlikely that any single member of staff will be applying all these competences at any one time but he or she would be expected to display most of them over a period of time.

Please follow this link to our Research Role Profiles

Person Specification

Knowledge (inc. qualifications)

Essential

- An awarded PhD in a relevant area of science (biological or environmental impact modelling / assessment)
- Clear understanding of simulation modelling of environmental impact or biological processes
- Clear understanding of livestock simulation models and issues (and challenges) of dealing with uncertainty in biological or environmental processes

- Clear understanding how to conduct research of high quality and report its outcomes
- Clear understanding of the requirements of multinational EU funded projects

Desirable

- Understanding of livestock (especially pig and/or poultry) Life Cycle Assessment models
- Knowledge of livestock environmental impact assessment and other relevant techniques applicable to research area.
- Management of large research projects and of technical support
- Knowledge of requirements of undergraduate and postgraduate projects

Skills (professional, technical, managerial, practical)

Essential

- Excellent simulation modelling skills applicable to livestock systems.
- Numerical skills including stochastic modelling /uncertainty analysis
- Good level of analytical skills and the ability to communicate complete information clearly, both orally and through the written word
- The ability to publish own research in good quality scientific journals
- The ability to work collaboratively with colleagues, including the technical support team
- The ability to use personal initiative and creativity to solve research problems

Desirable

- Prior experience of dealing with a variety of stakeholders
- Ability to communicate with animal nutritionists and animal geneticists
- Management of research team skills – especially a postgraduate team

Experience and Achievements (paid or unpaid)

Essential

- Peer reviewed Publications
- PhD experience in a relevant area of research (environmental impact assessment and/or simulation modelling of biological processes)
- Experience on a technical computing language (eg C++, Fortran, Matlab) and simulation modelling tools (eg SimaPro).

Desirable

- Postdoctoral experience, especially in the area of stochastic modelling
- Ability to quantify model-derived traits on system variation Grant writing skills
- Previous supervision of undergraduate and postgraduate students
- Peer reviewing

Other

Essential

Desirable

- Communication in other EU languages, especially French or Dutch

For full details about this vacancy and essential information on how to apply, visit our Job Vacancies web page at http://www.ncl.ac.uk/vacancies/