Role profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job title</th>
<th>Research Assistant (Data Scientist in Agriculture, Nutrition and Geography)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School/Department</td>
<td>School of Biosciences, Division of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Sutton Bonington Campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Job family and level</td>
<td>Research and Teaching Level 4a</td>
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Purpose of role

The MAPS (Micronutrient Action Policy Support) project is a major investment by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF). It is developing an online tool to enable a range of stakeholders to engage with data on dietary micronutrient supply and status in food systems, and the factors that influence the risk of deficiency in people. The tool will allow exploration of spatial factors affecting micronutrient supply, and the linking of data with other modelling tools to allow the assessment of policies and interventions. The tool is using open-source software throughout its implementation, and will make new scripts and data outputs available open-access.

The purpose of the role is to contribute to the development of data processing scripts, mathematical and statistical modelling activities of the MAPS project. The role involves close working with project colleagues in these disciplinary areas, as well as across the disciplines of soil and crop sciences, human nutrition, economics, as well as data architecture and web-development specialists. The role will also include providing to support to project colleagues delivering user training in the use of existing scripted approaches.

Main responsibilities

(Primary accountabilities and responsibilities expected to fulfil the role) | % time per year
--- | ---
1 | To contribute to harmonised scripting approaches for data cleaning activities in R language, particularly those arising from representative surveys at national scales, such as Household Consumption and Expenditure Surveys, or Micronutrient Surveys. | 40
2 | To undertake mathematical and/or statistical modelling of survey datasets for nutritional assessments for population micronutrient supply, using harmonised scripts. | 20
3 | To support the testing of communication of outputs to stakeholders outside academia and refine outputs to meet the needs of those stakeholders. | 20
4 | To contribute to research outputs and training materials for external users as required by the project. | 20
# Person specification

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<th>Essential</th>
<th>Desirable</th>
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| **Skills** | ▪ Excellent team-working skills and an understanding of how to communicate with colleagues from differing diverse geographic and disciplinary backgrounds.  
▪ Excellent English written and spoken language skills. |
| **Knowledge and experience** | ▪ Understanding of survey dataset structures and approaches required to model these and visualise the results.  
▪ Use of script repositories, e.g. GitHub for team working and sharing open-access resources.  
▪ Experience of using R scripts, including efficient coding mechanisms and use of various ‘packages’ in the R environment.  
▪ An understanding of micronutrients from nutrition/public health, environment/agriculture, or economics perspectives  
▪ Some experience in training others in scripting/R language. |
| **Qualifications, certification and training (relevant to role)** | ▪ BSc (Hons) or MSc in a subject relevant to the post, or the MAPS project disciplines.  
▪ Ability to travel internationally in support of project activities when international conditions for travel are suitable. |
| **Statutory, legal or special requirements** | |

The University of Nottingham is focused on embedding equality, diversity and inclusion in all that we do. As part of this, we welcome a diverse population to join our work force and therefore encourage applicants from all communities, particularly those with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

The University is a signatory of the Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA). As such we commit to focus on the scientific content of publications (where requested or provided as part of the recruitment and selection process) as a basis for review of quality, and consideration of value and impact of research conducted, rather than any proxy measures such as Journal Impact Factor.
Expectations and behaviours

The University has developed a clear set of core expectations and behaviours that our people should be demonstrating in their work, and as ambassadors of the University’s strategy, vision and values. The following are essential to the role:

### Valuing people
Is friendly, engaging and receptive, putting others at ease. Actively listens to others and goes out of way to ensure people feel valued, developed and supported.

### Taking ownership
Is clear on what needs to be done encouraging others to take ownership. Takes action when required, being mindful of important aspects such as Health & Safety, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, and other considerations.

### Forward thinking
Drives the development, sharing and implementation of new ideas and improvements to support strategic objectives. Engages others in the improvement process.

### Professional pride
Is professional in approach and style, setting an example to others; strives to demonstrate excellence through development of self, others and effective working practices.

### Always inclusive
Builds effective working relationships, recognising and including the contribution of others; promotes inclusion and inclusive practices within own work area.

Key relationships with others

- **Line manager**
- **Principal Research Fellow**

- **Role holder**
- **Research Assistant**

- **Key stakeholder relationships**
  - MAPS project team
  - External partners & stakeholders