



Job title	Research Associate/Fellow in Sheep Disease Genetics	Job family and level	Research and Teaching Level 4 (Appointment will be Level 4 Career training grade where an appointment is made before PhD has been completed)
School/ Department	School of Veterinary Medicine and Science	Location	Sutton Bonington campus

Purpose of role and research project

This position is part of a 3 year funded BBSRC funded project, titled **Establishing the Missing Pieces for a Breeding Selection Programme: TMEM154 and Maedi Visna Resistance in Sheep**. The project is an ambitious collaboration between Nottingham Uni and the Moredun Institute aimed at developing a viable genetic selection control programme for an intractable infectious viral disease of sheep. The post holder will join the One Virology strategic research area in the School of Veterinary Medicine and Science on the University of Nottingham's Sutton Bonington Campus.

This position based at Nottingham will have two main focuses. The first will be liaison with stakeholders in UK sheep farming: breed societies, diagnostic labs, farmers, veterinarians and industry partner AHDB beef and lamb. Attendance at sheep industry events and UK travel will be required. The aim is to solicit submission of breed data and clinical samples for genotyping and viral sequencing to establish the status of the UK flock with respect to genetic resistance to Maedi Visna. The second focus will be on bio-informatic and genetic sequencing and analysis, in conjunction with the AHDB geneticist. There will be some wet lab work and the candidate will work closely with a second post at Moredun focussed on molecular biology work aimed at determining the function of the TMEM154 gene. The end aim of the project is to develop recommendations for a breeding strategy for UK flocks to reduce the impact of Maedi Visna on sheep production.

	Main responsibilities (Primary accountabilities and responsibilities expected to fulfil the role)	% time per year
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To conduct research at the highest level in accordance with the aims and objectives of the project To prepare work for peer-reviewed publications Manage stakeholder communications and co-ordination Ensure appropriate data management, security and analysis in accordance with the aims of the project Attend UK stakeholder and scientific events as required 	85%
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To contribute to research supervision and training of undergraduates and postgraduates, and to contribute to the development of the research group 	5%
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To operate as an effective team player within the consortia and to be accountable to the line manager on the progress and daily running of the project. 	5%

4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Undertake administrative and any other relevant tasks as reasonably requested by the head of group. To update professional skills as appropriate.	5%
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Person specification

	Essential	Desirable
Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrated experience with public communication of science • Expertise with sample handling and database management for clinical samples • Molecular biology wet lab skills • Illumina and Nanopore sequencing wet lab preparation • Programming skills in Python and R (ubuntu/linux command line) • Expertise in bio-informatics (RNAseq and de-novo sequencing of pathogens) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welsh language skills • Experience with development of industry guidance or policy documents including co-development with stakeholders • Cell culture, virus culture, primary macrophage culture and virus pseudotype assay expertise • Experience with SNP chip genotyping data analysis • Experience with best linear unbiased prediction models for animal genetics • Experience with lentiviral phylogenetics • Experience with statistics in R or suites such as STATA and SPSS
Knowledge and experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In depth knowledge of the UK sheep industry • Experience with working with stakeholders in animal health and genetics • Track record of successful and timely delivery of research projects. • Experience of working in a collaborative research team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of working in a multidisciplinary team including industry or stakeholder collaborators • Background knowledge in lentiviral disease pathogenesis and or sheep genetics • Track record of publishing peer reviewed research • Experience of leadership of research projects
Qualifications, certification and training (relevant to role)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Award PhD (or very close to completion) in Veterinary Science, Animal Science, Biology, Biomedical science or other relevant fields 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First degree in a relevant area
Statutory/legal requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satisfactory basic disclosure obtained from the Disclosure and Barring Service. 	



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.

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 always equitable and fair and works with integrity. Proactively looks for ways to develop the team and is comfortable providing clarity by explaining the rationale behind decisions.
- Taking ownership** Is highly self-aware, looking for ways to improve, both taking on board and offering constructive feedback. Inspires others to take accountability for their own areas.
- Forward thinking** Driven to question the status quo and explore new ideas, supporting the team to "lead the way" in terms of know-how and learning.
- Professional pride** Sets the bar high with quality systems and control measures in place. Demands high standards of others identifying and addressing any gaps to enhance the overall performance.
- Always inclusive** Ensures accessibility to the wider community, actively encouraging inclusion and seeking to involve others. Ensures others always consider the wider context when sharing information making full use of networks and connections.

Key relationships with others

