



Job title	Research Assistant	Job family and level	Research and Teaching, level 4a
School/ Department	School of Medicine / Translational Medical Sciences	Location	School of Medicine, Queen's Medical Centre Campus

Purpose of role

The purpose of this role will be to assist and support our gastrointestinal MRI research group in carrying out a research project studying the responses of the gastrointestinal tract to a new low-lactose milk drink in humans who are likely to have lactose malabsorption, using various experimental techniques including breath hydrogen tests and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). The main project will primarily involve assisting in recruiting participants, carrying out the MRI study days and analysing the MRI data. You will also assist work on other similar projects within this research group.

You will join an established multi-disciplinary team, led by Professor Spiller, Dr Maura Corsetti and Prof Luca Marciani, whose main areas of research interest include gastroenterology, neurogastroenterology, gastrointestinal motility and gastrointestinal imaging. The project is a research collaboration with Professor Penny Gowland and Dr Caroline Hoad at the University's Sir Peter Mansfield Imaging Centre and the manufacturer of the low-lactose milk drink, who are providing the funding.

You will have the opportunity to use your initiative and creativity to identify areas for research, develop research methods and extend your research portfolio.

The School of Medicine recognises the importance of continuous professional development and therefore the importance of providing opportunities, structured support and encouragement to engage in professional development each year.

To find out more about the School of Medicine, its value, vision, teaching and research, please see our [further information leaflet](#).

	Main responsibilities (Primary accountabilities and responsibilities expected to fulfil the role)	% time per year
1	Research: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To undertake supervised research, which may include planning, preparing, setting up, conducting and recording the outcome of experiments and fieldwork, developing questionnaires and conducting surveys within the framework of an agreed programme. 	80%

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To carry out data analyses and/or tests and/or critical evaluations using specified and agreed techniques, approaches and/or models and document findings. To work in conjunction with others in the research team to achieve the research project objectives within the required timeline. 	
2	<p>Engagement and Communication:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To contribute to the production of research reports and publications and prepare and present papers on research progress and outcomes to relevant groups including external bodies. To communicate information and ideas to students and advise and assist other staff/students within area of expertise. To build relationships with internal and external contacts to develop knowledge and understanding and form relationships for future collaborations 	10%
3	<p>Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue to develop skills in and knowledge of research methods and techniques and contribute to the development of/or choice of techniques, models, methods, critiques and approaches. 	10%
4	<p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any duties appropriate to the grade and level of the post 	N/A

Person specification

	Essential	Desirable
Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent oral and written communication skills, including the ability to communicate with clarity on complex information. Evidence of sufficient breadth or depth of research methodologies and techniques to work in research area. Developing research skills. Ability to contribute to method improvement. Analytical ability to facilitate conceptual thinking, innovation and creativity. Ability to build relationships and collaborate with others, internally and externally. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates a desire to further develop skills and knowledge of research methods and techniques.

Knowledge and experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some experience in research data analysis • Good experience in working with human research study participants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good experience in analysing research data • Experience in analysing imaging data
Qualifications, certification and training (relevant to role)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degree or equivalent in relevant subject area related to human nutrition, human physiology or imaging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master's Degree, or equivalent in human nutrition, physiology or imaging (or the equivalent in professional qualifications and experience in the same subject areas).
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willingness to adopt the vision and values of the School of Medicine. 	



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

