



<b>Job title</b>	Research Fellow	<b>Job family and level</b>	Research and Teaching Level 4
<b>School/ Department</b>	School of Biosciences	<b>Location</b>	Sutton Bonington Campus

## Purpose of role

To conduct library research with historical documents and hands-on plant propagation working side-by-side with staff recruited in computer science and the wider academic team bridging Bioscience, English, Computer science and Pharmacy and in collaboration with the Royal Horticulture Society.

**Collaboration** Many of the responsibilities below will be conducted in collaboration with other staff on the project as this is an interdisciplinary collaboration. As such expect to be working with others frequently or preparing resources for sharing with the whole team.

	<b>Main responsibilities</b> (Primary accountabilities and responsibilities expected to fulfil the role)	<b>% time per year</b>
1	<b>Research</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct archival research in RHS collections and other manuscript repositories to identify historical plant propagation methods.</li> </ul>	50%
3	<b>Testing &amp; AI</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Translate plant terms as they change through history to develop a historically sensitive glossary of terms for integration into AI tools.</li> <li>Test new AI search tools in collaboration with a Computer Science colleague and exchange ideas on where improvements could be made</li> </ul>	20%
4	<b>Validation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Validate historical propagation techniques in the glasshouse and assess their potential for modern use within the plant science lab group.</li> </ul>	10%
5	<b>Cultural exploration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Through collaboration with RHS and English, analyse cultural and historical factors influencing adoption and resistance to horticultural innovations.</li> </ul>	10%
6	<b>Communication</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare research outputs, including academic publications, reports, and public engagement materials.</li> </ul>	10%

## Person specification

	Essential	Desirable
<b>Skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Willingness to undergo training to quickly learn or strengthen skills where needed.</li> <li>Willingness to collaborate with diverse disciplines</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Experience working with plant growth or propagation</li> <li>Archival research and working with historical texts.</li> <li>Experience with digital humanities tools or AI-assisted text analysis</li> </ul>
<b>Knowledge and experience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrated excellent communication skills for diverse audiences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong understanding of plant propagation and horticultural practices</li> <li>Knowledge of sustainability challenges in horticulture and agriculture</li> </ul>
<b>Qualifications, certification and training (relevant to role)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A PhD (or equivalent experience) in <b>Plant Science, Environmental History, Historical Botany, English language history</b> or a related field</li> </ul>	



## 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



