



Job title	Research Fellow (title will be Research Associate where an appointment is made before PhD is completed)	Job family and level	Research Level 4 (appointment will be Level 4 career training grade when an appointment is made before PhD has been completed)
School/ Department	Biosciences/ Plant & Crop Sciences	Location	Sutton Bonington Campus

Purpose of role

To carry out research developing Arabidopsis mutant and transgenic reporter lines to reveal molecular mechanisms regulating the model water stress response, Xerobranching. The role involves working within a team, designing and conducting lab experiments using confocal imaging, performing molecular biology experiments (such as single-cell transcriptomics, protein-protein interactions), analysing and writing reports and publications.

	Main responsibilities (Primary accountabilities and responsibilities expected to fulfil the role)	% time per year
1	Research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To independently design, plan, carry out and analyse relevant experiments, as well as undertake other duties, such as administration where appropriate. 	70%
2	Interacting with external partners and secure future collaborators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain excellent relations with the current collaborators and industrial partners. Conduct market research by engaging with industry, farmers, and other relevant parties Initiate internal/external collaborations where appropriate. 	15%
3	Support junior members of the group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To assist in the supervision and training of junior members of the team as appropriate. 	5%
4	Engage in Professional Development activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue developing professional research skills, keeping knowledge up to date through reading and the attendance at seminars. 	5%
5	Adhere to H&S regulations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To contribute to the safe and well-organised functioning of the laboratory. 	5%

Person specification

	Essential	Desirable
Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Demonstrable laboratory skills including expertise in growing plants in axenic and glasshouse conditions. ▪ Strong data analysis skills. ▪ Ability to creatively apply relevant research approaches, models, techniques and methods. ▪ Excellent oral and written communication skills. ▪ Good time management skills, ability to prioritise and meet deadlines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Demonstrable ability to analyse and interpret data, evaluate and criticise texts, bring new insights.
Knowledge and experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Solid understanding of plant biology and/or plant-fungus/bacterium-soil interactions. ▪ Experience handling fungal or microbial cultures. ▪ Experience in scientific writing of reports. ▪ Evidence of sufficient breadth or depth of research methodologies and techniques to work in the required research area. ▪ Willingness to travel nationally and internationally to work for short periods at a time in collaborating laboratories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Experience in supervising junior staff (e.g., undergraduate students) ▪ Experience in biopesticide mass production and formulation ▪ Technical knowledge of crop protection. ▪ Knowledge of additive manufacturing and polymer chemistry.
Qualifications, certification and training (relevant to role)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PhD (or close to completion) in plant biology/crop science field or related area of biological science 	



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



