University of Nottingham
UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA

Role profile

Job title	Research Fellow (Title will be 'Research Associate' where an appointment is made before PhD is completed)	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 Biosciences	Location	Sutton Bonington campus (remote/hybrid options)

Purpose of role

We are looking for a postdoctoral researcher to join a new multi-disciplinary research team developing A Platform to Rate Organisms Bred for Improved Traits and Yield (PROBITY).

The role holder will work closely with Dr Stacia Stetkiewicz, Assistant Professor of Sustainable Agricultural Systems, School of Biosciences at the University of Nottingham, and project partners at the British On Farm Innovation Network (BOFIN), using social science methods to understand barriers to uptake of precision bred crops in the UK.

The role provides an exciting opportunity to work with experienced researchers and liaise with a wide range of stakeholders who are taking a leading role in shaping the future of the uptake of precision bred crops in the UK and beyond. The University of Nottingham also offers a wide range of training and opportunities to researchers at all career levels.

We are looking for a highly motivated post-doctoral scientist with the relevant knowledge of the latest social sciences methodologies and with passion to make a difference for the future of sustainable agriculture. Strong understanding of social science research methodologies (e.g. interviewing, thematic analysis, and/or textual analysis) is essential. A proven track record in conducting social science fieldwork and publishing in highly ranked journals is desirable. Knowledge of and/or experience in new plant breeding techniques, agriculture, food systems or related biotechnologies would be a significant advantage.

The role will be based in Nottingham in the School of Biosciences but will involve working with colleagues based at partner institutions across the UK.

Due to the nature of the role, hybrid/remote working (for candidates based in the UK) and part time working will be considered.

If you have any questions about this role, please email Stacia.Stetkiewicz@nottingham.ac.uk

	Main responsibilities (Primary accountabilities and responsibilities expected to fulfil the role)	**% time per year**
1	**To plan and conduct research using recognised approaches, methodologies and techniques within the research area.** ▪ Plan, organize, and conduct qualitative interview and workshop data collection ▪ Analyse qualitative data from interviews and workshops ▪ Contribute to survey analysis ▪ Write up research work for publication and/or contribute to the dissemination at national/international conferences, resulting in successful research outputs.	50%
2	**Develop and implement novel research methods** ▪ Working with the project team to design and implement AI analysis methods for a large textual data set from online forums	15%
3	**Work and communicate as part of an interdisciplinary and diverse team** ▪ Liaising with stakeholders, attending and engaging actively in project meetings by presenting reports for the work in progress and/or delivered. ▪ To build relationships with both internal and external contacts in order to exchange information, to form relationships for future collaborations and identify potential sources of funds and/or opportunities for collaboration. ▪ To identify opportunities and assist in writing bids for research grant applications. Prepare proposals and applications to both external and/or internal bodies for funding, contractual or accreditation purposes.	20%
4	**Time management, data and administrative activities** ▪ To plan and manage own research activity and resolve problems, if required, in meeting own/team research objectives and deadlines in collaboration with others. ▪ Complying with GDPR requirements as per the Data Management Plan for this project. ▪ Ensuring strong EDI and ethical research principles are met throughout the work delivered	10%
5	**Personal and institutional development** ▪ Develop a personal training plan and engage with training activities as agreed with line manager ▪ General assistance with project co-ordination as needed ▪ Assistance with supervision of postgraduate and undergraduate project students as appropriate	5%

Person specification

	Essential	Desirable
Skills	▪ Excellent oral and written communication skills, including the ability to communicate complex information with clarity to different stakeholders. ▪ Experience of managing own work load and solving problems independently.	▪ Proven track record of publishing high quality social science research.
Knowledge and experience	▪ Experience with qualitative research collection and analysis techniques, including at least one of: conducting data collection interviews, workshops, and/or textual analysis. ▪ Knowledge or experience of applying GDPR and Responsible Research and Innovation guidelines to data collection, analysis, and dissemination.	▪ Experience with conducting quantitative social science research, such as surveys ▪ Knowledge or experience of working with precision breeding, UK agriculture or related biotechnologies
Qualifications, certification and training (relevant to role)	▪ PhD (or near to completion) in relevant subject area (such as Social Science, Sociology, Science and Technology Studies or an interdisciplinary PhD with a substantial social science component). Or the equivalent in professional qualifications and experience in research area.	

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

