
Research Role Profile

Job Title:	Research Assistant
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Responsible to:	Head of research group, or principal investigator
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Responsible for:	There is no direct supervisory responsibility
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Job Summary and Purpose:
To support research activity in accordance with specified research project(s) under the supervision of the principal investigator

Main Responsibilities/Activities
To support a research team by contributing to the planning of research projects and undertaking prescribed research tasks in accordance with specified research project(s), making use of standard research techniques and methods. These may include fieldwork, interviews, laboratory experimentation, computer-based data analysis or library research as directed by the research award holder and will entail co-ordinating own work with that of others to avoid conflict or duplication of effort. Analysing and interpreting results of own research, under the guidance of research award holder or supervisor. Write up results and contribute to the preparation of papers for submission to appropriate journals and conferences, and other outputs as required and/or appropriate. Attend appropriate conferences for the purpose of disseminating research results of personal development.
Continually update knowledge and develop skills
To carry out routine administrative tasks associated with a specified research project, for example risk assessment of research tasks, organisation of project meetings and documentation. This will entail planning own day-to-day research activity within the framework of the agreed programme, dealing with problems that may affect the achievement of research objectives and deadlines and implementing procedures required to ensure accurate and timely formal reporting and financial control
Demonstrating, or occasionally assisting with undergraduate supervision within the post holder's area of expertise and under the direct guidance of a member of the Faculty academic staff.

Research Role Profile

Person Specification

The post holder must have:

A first degree or a professional qualification or equivalent in a relevant subject.

At least part-completed a relevant doctoral degree or have relevant experience in a given field.

Whilst there is no requirement for previous work experience, the post holder will be expected to be able to support research activities by performing experiments and/or undertaking studies and analysing/ interpreting results.

Relationships and Contacts

Direct responsibility to the principal investigator or academic supervisor.

Special Requirements

To be available to participate in fieldwork as required by the specified research project.

All staff are expected to:

- Positively support equality of opportunity and equity of treatment to colleagues and students in accordance with the University of Surrey Equal Opportunities policy.
- Help maintain a safe working environment by:
 - Attending training in Health and Safety requirements as necessary, both on appointment and as changes in duties and techniques demand
 - Following local codes of safe working practices and the University of Surrey Health and Safety Policy
- Undertake such other duties within the scope of the post as may be requested by your Manager.

Research Role Profile

Addendum

The role

We are seeking a Research Assistant to join a multidisciplinary team working on a research project investigating vocalisation and behaviour in poultry. The aim of this project is to develop innovative and practical approaches for real-time welfare monitoring and early detection of disease in poultry systems, using acoustics and images combined with artificial intelligence.

This role presents a unique opportunity to contribute to research that lies at the intersection of animal behaviour, welfare science, and digital innovation. The successful candidate will play a central role in data collection, analysis, and interpretation, working closely with both academic researchers and commercial farm partners, bridging traditional animal science with AI tools.

Key responsibilities will include:

- Assisting in the deployment and monitoring of audio and video recording equipment on a commercial poultry farm in collaboration with project partners.
- Collect and manage acoustic recordings, images, and behavioural data from broilers.
- Process and clean datasets, ensuring proper labelling, quality control, and metadata documentation.
- Analysing vocalisation patterns, images and behavioural indicators using conventional and AI tools.
- Maintaining accurate records of all datasets associated with the research.
- Training of artificial intelligence models, contributing to the development of automated systems for detecting signs of distress, illness, or compromised welfare in poultry.
- Interpreting data and assisting in the preparation of peer-reviewed journal articles.

About you

You will have a minimum of Bachelor's degree in animal science, veterinary biosciences, biology, zoology, computer science with interest in digital biotechnology or a related field. Candidates with equivalent qualifications and demonstrable research or field experience are also encouraged to apply.

We are particularly interested in individuals who have:

Research Role Profile

- Strong organisational and time-management skills, with the ability to manage multiple tasks.
- The ability to work both independently and as part of a collaborative team, often across disciplines.
- A demonstrable interest in animal behaviour, welfare science, poultry research or digital biotechnology.
- Experience with data analysis, scientific writing and the preparation of research outputs.
- Knowledge of machine learning algorithms, signal processing, and computer vision techniques.

How to apply

If this opportunity interests you, please submit a CV and outline your interest in the role and how your background fits with the project. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to an interview in October 2025, with the successful candidate expected to start shortly afterwards.

For informal enquiries or more information about the position, please contact Oluwole Oni at o.oni@surrey.ac.uk