

Last Updated: 16/10/26			
Job Title	Research Officer/Data Scientist		
Faculty/ Department	Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences	Legal Entity	University of Surrey
Job Family	Technical and Experimental	Job Level	3
Reports To	Professor Kevin Wells	Line Manages (role title(s))	N/A

Job Statement

This Research Officer / Data Scientist role supports an Innovate UK-funded collaborative project with Aviasenze Ltd, The Pirbright Institute and Hay Farms. The project investigates the monitoring of poultry flock health and the early identification of potential ill health using Aviasenze's novel acoustic monitoring technology. The postholder will support field and project data collection, secure storage, quality assurance, analysis and reporting, turning complex datasets into reliable and accessible evidence for academic and industry partners.

The role combines hands-on research delivery with applied data science, data management, stakeholder communication and some software development. The postholder will work independently and collaboratively to help deliver agreed research objectives, outputs, milestones and funder reports.

The Post Holder will work with Prof Wells and other members of the consortium in order to support and coordinate the research. To work with Prof Wells and related staff at the University of Surrey and support data collection, storage and analysis and ensure confidentiality. Finally, to coordinate and present the production of interim and final reports to the funding body, and contribute to academic outputs and other dissemination activities, and support other project administrative tasks.

Key Responsibilities This is not designed to be a list of all tasks undertaken but the main responsibilities (5 to 8 maximum)

1. Plan and support research data collection, including on-farm activity where required; clarify data requirements with project partners and maintain appropriate collection protocols and documentation.
2. Collect, organise, clean, manipulate and validate acoustic-monitoring, avian and associated farm records; maintain data integrity, traceability, confidentiality and secure storage in line with approved data governance procedures.
3. Analyse and interpret longitudinal and other project data using appropriate statistical, computational and machine-learning methods, under the direction of the research team; investigate signal, data-quality issues and meaningful patterns relevant to flock health.
4. Produce clear analytical reports, summaries, dashboards and visualisations tailored to stakeholders with different levels of technical expertise; communicate results, uncertainty and limitations appropriately.
5. Contribute to software development, including front-end and back-end applications to support data collection, processing, analysis or reporting.
6. Coordinate technical work with consortium colleagues, support meetings and project documentation, track tasks and deliverables, and contribute to timely interim and final reports for Innovate UK and project partners.
7. Help prepare research outputs, presentations, publications and other dissemination materials where appropriate, and contribute to continuous improvement of project methods and tools.
8. Identify technical or delivery risks, resolve routine problems independently where appropriate, escalate material issues promptly and follow relevant research ethics, information-security and health-and-safety requirements.

N.B. The above list is not exhaustive.

Role Scope and Impact This is a summary of the post holder's role in delivering outcomes, making decisions, and the complexity of problem-solving involved in the role.

1. **Accountability:** Describe level of autonomy and decision making
 - *The post-holder will be expected to lead the development of solutions as detailed above but always within consultation with colleagues and under the supervision of Prof Wells.*
 - *The post holder will be privy to sensitive and confidential information and as such is expected to maintain high levels of confidentiality.*
2. **Problem solving:** Describe complexity and nature of problems handled.

The post holder will operate with clear procedures, and most tasks are operational in nature and heavily guided by established protocols. Where not, then various approaches and potential solutions will be discussed with Prof Wells and other key stake holders.

Person Specification This section describes the knowledge, experience & competence required by the post holder that is necessary for standard acceptable performance in carrying out this role.	
Qualifications and Professional Memberships	Essential / Desirable
Degree or equivalent professional experience in data science, computer science, statistics, a quantitative discipline or a closely related field.	E
Technical Competencies (Experience and Knowledge) This section contains the level of competency required to carry out the role (please refer to the Competency Framework for clarification where needed and the Job Matching Guidance).	
Proven practical experience of data collection, storage, manipulation, analysis, quality assurance and data governance	E
Experience of working with data from multiple sources and communicating analytical findings through reports or visualisations.	E
Experience of research delivery, including planning activities, maintaining records and working to milestones or deadlines.	E
Experience working with crop cards and/or other avian data.	E
Experience in farming, bird wildlife research or similar field contexts, ideally including on-farm work or fieldwork.	E
Experience contributing to academic papers, technical reports or funding-body reporting.	E
Highly self-motivated and hardworking	E
Fluency in written and spoken English	E
Sound analytical and problem-solving skills, including the ability to assess data quality and interpret results critically.	E
Clear written and verbal communication skills, including explaining technical material to non-specialist stakeholders.	E
Ability to organise and prioritise work, operate independently and collaborate effectively in a multidisciplinary consortium.	E
Understanding of information security, confidentiality and responsible handling of research data.	D
Experience of software development or scripting, including front-end and/or back-end applications.	D
Experience with Python, PyTorch and/or other machine-learning approaches.	E
Experience with Excel macros and automation of data-processing or reporting workflows.	D
Sound analytical and problem-solving skills, including the ability to assess data quality and interpret results critically.	E
Special Requirements This may include a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check, regular overseas travel, driving licence, shift work.	Essential/ Desirable
N/A	N/A
Core Competencies This section contains the level of competency required to carry out this role. (Please refer to the competency framework for clarification where needed). n/a (not applicable) should be placed, where the competency is not a requirement of the grade.	Level 1-3
Communication	3
Adaptability and Flexibility	3
Customer, Client service and support	2
Planning and Organising	1
Continuous Improvement	1
Problem Solving and Decision Making Skills	3
Managing and Developing Performance	2
Creative and Analytical Thinking	3

Influencing, Persuasion and Negotiation Skills	1
Strategic Thinking and Leadership	1

This Job Purpose outlines the core activities of the role. As the Department/Faculty and the post holder evolve, the duties and focus of the role may change. The University expects the post holder to adopt a flexible approach to work, including undertaking relevant training when necessary. If significant changes to the Job Purpose are required, the post holder will be consulted, and the changes will be reflected in a revised Job Purpose.

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.
- Work to achieve the aims of our Environmental Policy and promote awareness to colleagues and students.
- Follow University/departmental policies and working practices in ensuring that no breaches of information security result from their actions.
- Contribute towards broader university initiatives that have a positive impact on student experience, recruitment and campus operations. This may include participation in cross-functional activities such as open days, confirmation and clearing, welcome week, graduation.
- Ensure they are aware of and abide by all relevant University Regulations and Policies relevant to the role.
- Undertake such other duties within the scope of the post as may be requested by your Manager.
- Work supportively with colleagues, operating in a collegiate manner at all times.

Help maintain a safe working environment by:

- All staff have a statutory responsibility to take reasonable care of themselves and others and to prevent harm by their acts or omissions. All staff are, therefore, required to adhere to the University's Our Safety Policy Statement and associated Procedures.

Organisational/Departmental Information & Key Relationships

Background Information

This is a Data Scientist role aimed at supporting the data collection and analysis of an exciting InnovateUK funded project in association with Aviasenze Ltd, the Pirbright Institute and Hay Farms. The project is focused on monitoring health and early warnings of ill health in poultry flocks through Aviasenze' novel acoustic monitoring technology

Department Structure Chart

