

Research Role Profile

Job Title:	Research Fellow (1A)
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Responsible to:	Head of research group, or principal investigator
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Responsible for:	Not applicable
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Job Summary and Purpose:
To undertake research in accordance with the specified research project(s) under the supervision of the principal investigator.

Main Responsibilities/Activities
<p>To undertake a range of research activities within a specified research area, assuming responsibility for specific areas of projects and making use of new research techniques and methods, in consultation with the research award holder or supervisor. This may include fieldwork, interviews, laboratory experimentation, critical evaluation and interpretation, computer-based data analysis and evaluation or library research.</p> <p>Using initiative and creativity to identify areas for research develop new research methods and extend the research portfolio. Analysing and interpreting results of own research. Write up results and prepare 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. The post holder may also contribute to writing bids for research grants and will contribute to collaborative decision making with colleagues in areas of research.</p> <p>Continually to update knowledge and develop skills, and translate knowledge of advances in the area into research activity.</p> <p>To plan and manage own research activity in collaboration with others. To carry out administrative tasks associated with specified research funding, for example risk assessment of research activities, organisation of project meetings and documentation. Implementation of procedures required to ensure accurate and timely formal reporting and financial control.</p> <p>To contribute to teaching in the Faculty by carrying out student supervision and/or demonstrating within the post holder's area of expertise and under the direct guidance of a member of departmental academic staff, as appropriate.</p> <p>The post holder may occasionally be required to supervise more junior research staff.</p>

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Person Specification

The post holder must have:

A doctoral degree in a relevant discipline (although individuals who have almost completed a doctoral degree may be appointed). Consideration may also be given to individuals who do not hold a doctoral degree but have required skills based on a number of years experience in specified / relevant fields.

The post holder will have authority over some aspects of project work and must be capable of providing academic judgement, offering original and creative thoughts and be able to interpret and analyse results.

Relationships and Contacts

Direct responsibility to the principal investigator or academic supervisor. The post holder may be asked to serve on a relevant Faculty committee. There may be additional reporting and liaison responsibilities to external funding bodies or sponsors. The post holder may work on original research tasks with colleagues in other institutions.

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.

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ADDENDUM

Job Title:	Research Fellow for Alborada Well Foal Study
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Main Responsibilities/Activities

This information sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying generic Research Fellow (1A) Role Profile and will be used for shortlisting processes. More specifically the post holder will be expected to:

The post holder will provide dedicated bioinformatics and metagenomics support to a longitudinal study of the equine gut microbiome. They will be responsible for analysis of a large amount of 16S gene sequencing data and the taxonomic characterisation of the developing equine intestinal microbiota.

This project also involves the integration of immunological and foal health data with bacterial community profile data. The post holder will be supported by a dedicated academic statistician and together they are expected to use multivariable statistical methods and to show creativity in their approach to exploring the relationship between microbiome, immunological status and health outcomes.

Key deliverables for this project are both scientific publications and presentations to lay stakeholder audiences. Experience in the presentation of complex data to both types of audience and an ability to draw out key findings from complex data are essential attributes.

The post holder will work alongside other scientists in a rapidly growing research environment in a new School of Veterinary Medicine. Several projects exploring aspects of animal gut microbiomes are underway and the School is developing a critical mass of research expertise in this area. Collaboration with the government-funded Animal and Plant Health Agency at nearby Weybridge is providing DNA sequencing and immunological expertise.

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Person Specification

In addition to the criteria outlined in the accompanying generic Research Fellow (1A) Role Profile, the post holder should have (E = Essential; D = Desirable):

A degree in biological sciences, medicine or veterinary medicine (E)

A PhD in bioinformatics, computational biology, human microbiota, microbial ecology or equivalent (E)

Post-doctoral experience (D)

Experience in computational bioinformatics and/or multivariable biostatistics within an NGS setting (data assemblage, analysis and annotation) (E)

Strong programming skills in C/C++, Java, Perl, or Python (D)

Experience in statistical computing environments such as R (D)

Experience of gut microbiome studies (D)

Experience of scientific authorship leading to timely, high quality publications (E)

Special Requirements

Willingness to undertake occasional travel for conferences or stakeholder meetings.

Background Information

The post is funded by the Alborada Trust. It will be based in the Department of Pathology and Infectious Diseases within the University's School of Veterinary Medicine.

This project will run in parallel with other BBSRC, MRC, AHRC, EPSRC, EU and commercially funded projects in the area of host-microbe interactions.