

Research Role Profile

Job Title:	Research Fellow A
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Responsible to:	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

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.

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.

Continually to update knowledge and develop skills, and translate knowledge of advances in the area into research activity.

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. 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.

The post holder may occasionally be required to supervise more junior research staff.

Person Specification

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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 to Role Profile

Job Title:

Research Fellow (1A)

Job Summary and Purpose:

This information sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying generic Research RA1A Role Profile and will be used for shortlisting processes. More specifically the post holder will be expected to:

The position is a unique collaboration between the University of Surrey and the Food Standards Agency (FSA). The successful applicant will use tools to take the latest advances in bioinformatics and various high-resolution data sources both nationally and internationally to develop next generation risk assessment approaches for the FSA. The postholder will be primarily located within the Risk Assessment Unit at the FSA, working closely with colleagues to develop and implement the risk assessment tools in a fast-paced policy environment. We anticipate that the resulting research will be incorporated into the FSA's decision-making processes concerning risk, and will form a lasting and high-impact legacy for the FSA and possibly wider risk assessment practises.

Main Responsibilities/Activities

The aim of the Research Fellowship is to work with the Food Standards Agency (FSA) to develop tools to incorporate Bioinformatics and other relevant data technologies into risk assessment processes. The Research Fellow will work with the University of Surrey and the FSA Risk Assessment Unit to deliver fit-for-purpose risk assessment tools and subsequent training on the use of these tools. The Research Fellow will use new research techniques and methods to integrate different data sources to better inform our understanding of food safety risks. This is a unique opportunity to work in a research area that is linked directly to UK food policy.

In addition, the respective work will include:

- Using innovation and creativity to identify areas for research, develop new research methods and extend the research portfolio.
- Working with FSA colleagues and key stakeholders to develop and communicate model requirements.
- Analysing and interpreting results of own research.
- Working on and managing an independent research portfolio, interpreting research results and consolidating these into practical decision-making.
- Writing up results and preparing papers for submission to appropriate journals.
- Presenting results at both internal and external conferences and meetings.
- Training to update knowledge and develop skills.

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Person Specification

The post holder must have:

- A first degree in a life or quantitative science (e.g. Physics, Maths, Engineering, Biology or Biochemistry) and a PhD in one of the following: Operational Research, Risk Analysis, Bioinformatics or Data Analysis/Data Science.
- Excellent analytical capability, including problem formulation, merging and analysing diverse and large datasets and problem solving.
- Experience of at least one scripting language (e.g. R, Python, MATLAB).
- Highly developed communication skills to engage effectively with a wide-ranging audience (expert and non-expert), both orally and in writing, using a range of media.
- Competency to conduct individual and collaborative research projects and demonstrate excellent project and time management skills.
- Experience of working independently.
- Ability to produce written reports and publications for both expert and non-expert audiences.

Desirable

- Familiarity with mathematical and statistical modelling approaches and/or Risk Analysis.
- Knowledge of microbiological risk assessment and/or bioinformatics applied to food.

Special requirements

The postholder will need to meet FSA requirements on security and nationality.

Successful candidates must pass a disclosure and barring security check.

People working with government assets must complete [basic personnel security standard](#) checks.

This role is open to the following groups:

- UK nationals
- Nationals of Commonwealth countries who have the right to work in the UK
- Nationals of the Republic of Ireland
- Nationals from the EU, EEA or Switzerland with (or eligible for) status under the European Union Settlement Scheme (EUSS)
- Relevant EU, EEA, Swiss or Turkish nationals working in the Civil Service
- Relevant EU, EEA, Swiss or Turkish nationals who have built up the right to work in the Civil Service

Certain family members of the relevant EU, EEA, Swiss or Turkish nationals

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Relationships and Contacts

Direct responsibility is to the Principal Investigator at the University of Surrey.

The postholder will be embedded into the FSA's Risk Assessment Unit and will have a day-to-day FSA supervisor that manages their responsibilities within the FSA team (approx. 85% of time). In line with FSA flexible working, the successful applicant can be home-, multi-location or office-based with a choice of UK offices in London, Cardiff, York or Birmingham.

The postholder will spend around 15% of the time working with the PI and Co-PI at the University of Surrey in Guildford.

Some UK travel may be required to meet with different teams within the FSA and University of Surrey (once travel restrictions are lifted).