

Research Assistant

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job title:

Research Assistant

Pay Band

4

Department:

Disease Control

Reporting
Structure:

Principal Research
Scientist



Research Assistant

Staff
reporting to
postholder:

None

Main
purpose of
job:

Assist in undertaking research to underpin the area of sustainable nematode control in livestock.

Main duties
of
postholder:

- Maintain parasite isolates in culture and archive
- Sample collection and processing of material for on-going nematode/entomology research projects
- Meticulous data collection and collation in appropriate formats
- Provide parasite material for internal and externally funded projects
- Assist in training of students on applied parasitology techniques.
- Day to day maintenance of lab consumables and relevant reagents

PERSON SPECIFICATION

	Essential	Desirable
Attainments:	HNC/HND in Biological Sciences or equivalent	BSc (Hons) Biological Science or equivalent
Experience:	Experience in sample collection, handling and processing, ideally including faecal, blood and tissue, environmental and pasture samples.	Ability to conduct basic parasitological techniques, such as faecal egg counts, egg extractions, larval cultures, and life-history trait analyses.
	Ability to undertake regular field sampling, including at farm locations.	
	Meticulous attention-to-detail	Competence in microscopy for identifying nematodes, Diptera species, or related invertebrates.
	Livestock handling (sheep, goats, pigs, cattle)	Experience working safely around livestock in agricultural settings.
	IT - Microsoft Office packages at basic/intermediate level	Ability to maintain parasite isolates in culture, archive materials, and prepare samples for internal and external research projects.
		Ability to support the day to day running of a research laboratory, including consumables management, equipment checks, and general housekeeping.

Skills:

	Experience maintaining QA/quality assurance records, freezer/fridge logs, and ensuring compliance with lab processes.
	Proven ability to work collaboratively across multiple projects and support colleagues as needed
	Experience with coprocultures for larval development and collection and postmortem work for parasite enumeration, sexing, and species identification.
Communication – excellent interpersonal and communication skills when dealing with a wide range of managers and staff	
Managing relationships – ability to deal with a wide range of people with tact and diplomacy Able to build and maintain effective working relationships with a range of people.	
Team working - ability to work flexibly and effectively as part of the team.	
Resilience - strong ability to work with ambiguity and constantly changing set of circumstances and issues.	
Data - Ability to collate and organise data accurately, ensuring high-quality sample tracking and documentation.	Ability to support data analysis or contribute to research outputs as part of project teams.
Decision making – able to take independent action where necessary in line with policies and procedures	Ability to quickly assimilate complex information and take effective decisions when required

Other skills (please specify) Other requirements (please specify)	Flexibility – ability to adapt and work effectively with a variety of situations, individuals or groups. Able to understand and appreciate different and opposing perspectives on an issue and to adapt an approach as the situation changes	
	Confident using computers to record research results and maintain datasets.	
	• Enthusiastic, self-motivated, and able to take initiative in daily tasks. • Demonstrated reliability, attention to detail, and commitment to high laboratory standards. • Willingness to take on varied responsibilities in a dynamic research environment. • Willingness and ability to undertake regular field sampling, including at farm locations across the UK, which may involve some travel • Drivers licence (desirable)	