

Candidate Information

Position:	Research Assistant
School/Department:	School of Biological Sciences
Reference:	26/113688
Closing Date:	Monday 9 November 2026
Salary:	£36,366 - £41,727.00 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date:	Monday 23 November 2026
Duration:	24 months

JOB PURPOSE:

The Co-Centre for Sustainable Food Systems has an ambitious programme of work which aims to develop a robust, resilient and sustainable food system in the transition to healthy diets from sustainable sources. It encompasses a research programme from plant science to nutrition and public health across three jurisdictions – the Republic of Ireland (ROI), Northern Ireland (NI) and Great Britain (GB). The Co-Centre will foster research and innovation to accelerate radical transitions towards a more environmentally and economically sustainable and transparent agri-food sector.

The successful candidate will work within a multidisciplinary team to contribute to the delivery of both a longitudinal household study and an intervention trial to monitor and improve the transition to healthy diets from sustainable sources across the Island of Ireland. The candidate will work together with post-doctoral researchers and other research assistants to recruit participants and collect data on a range of dietary, lifestyle, biological and functional health outcomes; therefore, excellent organisational and communication skills are essential.

There will be opportunities to develop research experiences, receive research mentoring, and access the co-centre research network. This post is a great opportunity for someone looking to build their nutrition-related research skills.

MAJOR DUTIES:

Research:

1. Recruitment of volunteers including taking informed consent.
2. Monitoring volunteer progression through all study phases.
3. Conducting remote and in-person assessments to collect detailed dietary, lifestyle, biological, anthropometric, clinical and physical function measurements and entering data into a central research database.
4. Involvement in analysis and/ or report-writing.
5. Working closely with Co-Centre funded Research Fellows.
6. Managing workload with a high level of autonomy and collaborating with colleagues to deliver research activities in a timely manner.
7. Any other duties as may be assigned by a line-manager.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Qualified to MSc/ PhD or BSc (hons 2:1 or above with significant relevant experience) in nutrition or other discipline relevant to the post. A qualification in dietetics would be a distinct advantage.
2. At least six months experience of working in human research studies (including population-based, nutrition interventions or clinical trials).
3. Significant experience of data collection including dietary, lifestyle, biological and functional health outcomes.
4. Significant experience of data entry with proven ability of excellent attention to detail.
5. Significant experience of creating, managing and summarising complex databases.
6. Significant experience of working in a multi-disciplinary team and with participants in research projects.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Excellent oral, written and interpersonal and communication skills with ability to deal face-to-face or remotely with individuals from a variety of backgrounds, cultures and nationalities.
2. Strong organisational skills; ability to plan and manage own workload to meet deadlines.
3. Demonstrable administrative and prioritisation skills with the ability to manage a varied workload in a high paced environment.
4. Ability to use initiative and apply creativity to solve problems.
5. Excellent interpersonal skills; ability to quickly establish and maintain good working relationships at all levels.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Informal enquiries can be directed to: Dr Elissa Price e.price@qub.ac.uk