

Job Description

Job title	Research Fellow
Department	Life Sciences
Grade	FA6

Job purpose (a brief summary of the role)	The postholder will join a research team working directly with the principal investigator (PI) and a research assistant to investigate a recently discovered molecular pathway that controls secondary branching and tiller number, which we named High Tiller Number 1 (HTN1). The candidate will use state-of-the-art techniques to elucidate the HTN1 pathway primarily in wheat, for which we have unique genomic and genetic resources in hand. Specifically, we will use computational, developmental genetic and molecular approaches to unravel the exact nature of this pathway and uncover the various components and regulatory factors involved, including how the environment (e.g. temperature, nutrient availability) affects the HTN1 pathway. The role will also include the preparation of publications, development of research avenues, training of research assistants and attendance of conferences. There will be autonomy to develop other projects, to supervise undergraduates and work with PhD students.
Duties and responsibilities	RESEARCH • Develop research goals and methods • Undertake basic research and techniques such as molecular biology, NGS preparation, basic bioinformatics analyses. • Conduct literature and database searches. • Continue to update knowledge and develop skills. • Write up results of own research and maintain lab books. • Contribute to the production of research reports and publications. • Communications including attending weekly research group meetings and sharing/contributing ideas, communication with other research groups both inside and outside of the Department (exchanging information, seeking and advising on techniques, etc.). TEACHING AND LEARNING SUPPORT • Provide training to research assistant • Assist in the supervision of student projects. • Give demonstrations to students. • Could be expected to contribute to introductory courses, for example on the use of research methods and equipment. ADMINISTRATION AND OTHER ACTIVITIES • Participate in department life and may be required to attend departmental meetings. • Ensure compliance with health and safety in all aspects of work. • Work within budget constraints. • Management of the project on a day to day basis, including managing equipment and purchasing consumables and maintenance issues. Monitoring progress and advising the PI of any issues that are likely to lead to a delay in the project.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Store electronic data and keep data up to date (including ensuring quality assurance standards are maintained.) |
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The duties and responsibilities outlined are not intended to be an exhaustive list but provide guidance on the main aspects of the job. You will be required to be flexible in your duties.

Person Specification

The Person Specification focuses on the essential and desirable knowledge, skills, experience and qualifications required to undertake the role effectively. This is measured by (a) Application Form, (b) Test/Exercise, (c) Interview, (d) Presentation.

Essential Criterion No.	Essential Criterion Description	Measured by
E1	Good honours degree and possession of a PhD or equivalent in Plant genetics or Genomics.	A & C
E2	Proficiency in phenotypic analysis and bioinformatics.	A,C & D
E3	A developing research profile with the ability to publish and/or produce high-quality research output.	A,C & D
E4	Breadth or depth of specialist knowledge/expertise in plant genetics and of research methods and techniques [cloning, protein analysis and microscopy] to work within established research programmes.	A,C & D
E5	Effective communication skills (oral and written), including the ability to articulate and present research results to an audience; supervision of students.	A,C & D
E6	Ability to work independently and/or as part of a team on research programmes.	A,C & D
E7	Evidence of research ability/experience and quality research output in plant biology, including experience gained during PhD studies and post PhD qualification (where appropriate).	A,B,C & D

Desirable Criterion No.	Desirable Criterion Description	Measured by
D1	Expertise in plant molecular genetics.	A,C & D
D2	Evidence of ability or potential to contribute to the development of funding proposals in order to generate external funding to support research projects.	A & C
D3	Evidence of publications submitted to relevant journals in biology.	A & C
D4	Evidence of work-related external activities such as outreach activities/research panels or similar, or, of running research projects (outside of PhD studies).	A,C & D
D5	Evidence of input into research culture activities, University or other relevant committee memberships etc.	A & C