Job Description

Job title	Research Associate
Department/School	Department for Health
Job family	Education and Research
Grade	7
Reporting to	Principal Investigator (PI) or Co-Investigator (CI)
Responsible for	There may be a requirement for: day to day supervision of other staff e.g. technical staff or, co-supervision of doctoral or undergraduate students
Location	University of Bath premises

Background and context

This post-doctoral position will be to work within our Centre for Nutrition, Exercise & Metabolism (CNEM) on a BBSRC-funded grant for 10.5 months. That grant is entitled **"CHARACTERISING RHYTHMICITY IN HUMAN SKELETAL MUSCLE METABOLISM"** and will involve the analysis of tissue samples from human volunteers who have completed a 40-hour semi-constant routine protocol in order to establish 24-h rhythms in human whole body and skeletal muscle carbohydrate metabolism and protein turnover, along with how these rhythms are affected by systematically manipulated daily physical activity patterns.

Specifically, this protocol will involve each participant receiving constant 24-h nasogastric delivery of enteral nutrition [labelled with isotope tracers for glucose and phenylalanine], with hourly blood sampling and 4-hourly skeletal muscle sampling. These individuals will have been randomised either to remain rested for the entire 40-h laboratory visit (i.e. resting control) or will complete 60 minutes of muscle contractile activity (i.e. cycling exercise) either in the morning or the evening. Participants will also then adhere to their allocated activity pattern for several weeks afterwards with additional monitoring during and after that free-living period.

This research is supported by a project grant from BBSRC and will involve working with staff within the CNEM at Bath, along with collaborators on this grant at the Universities of Nottingham, Surrey, Maastricht, Geneva, Melbourne and Copenhagen.

The Research Associate will take responsibility for the co-ordination of analysis with collaborators, supervising research students as required, and will also be involved in tissue and data analysis, along with publication of the results.

Job purpose

To provide subject-specific research expertise and undertake specific research work to a Principal Investigator (PI)/Co-Investigator (CI) and their research team for a specified grant/project.

Main duties and responsibilities	
	Responsible to the PI/CI for (as appropriate to discipline):
1	Conduct individual and/or collaborative research projects. Contribute to the design and execution of the project e.g. timetabling and meeting project milestones; participating in regular discussions with collaborative partners. Generate, collect and analyse existing data related to the project using qualitative and/or quantitative techniques.
2	Write-up results of research and contribute to the publication of results in high-quality peer-reviewed academic literature.
3	Disseminate results of research project as appropriate to the discipline through activities such as • overseas research visits • conference presentations • public engagement activities
4	Participate in departmental/group meetings and prepare and deliver presentations/seminars to project team, internal and external stakeholders or funders.
5	Assist with the supervision of postgraduate students and undergraduate project students and the assessment of student knowledge.
6	Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism to inform research activity.
7	Identify sources of funding and provide assistance with preparing bids to funding bodies. Develop ability to secure own funding e.g. travel grants.
8	Contribute to the development of research objectives and proposals for own or joint research projects, with assistance of a mentor, if required.

9	Disseminate knowledge of research advances to inform departmental teaching.
10	As a member of Research Staff at the University, you will be encouraged to take up a minimum of 10 days' professional development pro rata per year. You should use this time to spend on activities that will benefit your career development and your personal growth. Examples include: attending workshops, career development coaching, mentoring, training courses, participation in networks, attending conferences, writing fellowship or funding applications, and representing the research staff community on committees or working groups. The University, as a signatory to the Concordat for the Career Development of Researchers, is committed to its principles. We aim to provide a supportive and inclusive environment, where researchers' contributions are recognised and valued, and we provide opportunities to enable research staff to develop their full potential.
	You will from time to time be required to undertake other duties of a similar nature as reasonably required by your line manager. You are required to follow all University policies and procedures at all times and take account of University guidance.

Person Specification

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications		
Undergraduate degree (e.g. BA, BSc, BEng) PhD degree* in subject area of direct relevance for the project; **or** Professional/Industrial/Creative Doctorate in subject area of direct relevance for the project **or** Professional qualification (e.g. Chartership) and relevant research experience equivalent to that of a PhD; **or** Applied Research experience in relevant discipline gained in a professional or industrial setting equivalent to that of a PhD	√ √	
Experience/Knowledge		
Post doctoral experience		√

Demonstrated significant depth and breadth of specialist knowledge of subject matter to contribute to research programmes and to the development of departmental research activities	√	
Demonstrated awareness of latest developments in the field of research and in research design	√	
Demonstrated potential to publish in high quality, peer reviewed journals	√	
Skills		
Ability to prepare research proposals, to conduct individual research work and to disseminate results		√
Ability to organise and prioritise own workload to meet required deadlines	√	
Ability to write research reports and to effectively disseminate outcomes	√	
Excellent oral, interpersonal and written communication skills	√	
Proficiency in appropriate techniques (as appropriate to discipline)	√	
Proficiency in IT skills (as appropriate to discipline)	√	
Attributes		
Commitment to working within professional and ethical codes of conduct	√	
Innovation and developing creative solutions	√	
Commitment to excellence in research	√	
Enthusiasm and self-motivation	√	
Tenacity – working to achieve own and team objectives and to overcome obstacles	√	
Ability to be an effective team worker	√	
Commitment to safe working practices	√	

*If you have not yet been awarded your PhD, you will need to have at least submitted your thesis in order to be offered this role (if successful). This offer would be subject to you passing your viva with or without minor corrections and your PhD being awarded within your six-month probation period. Please note that an offer may be withdrawn, or probation failed, if a PhD viva is not passed or passed with major corrections. The University's normal probationary requirements apply in all other respects.