

# University of Greenwich

## JOB DESCRIPTION

<b>Job Title:</b>	<b>Post-doctoral Research Assistant – Applied Pollination Biologist</b>	<b>Grade:</b>	<b>AC1</b>
<b>Department:</b>	<b>FES/NRI/AHED</b>	<b>Date of Job Evaluation:</b>	
<b>Role reports to:</b>	<b>Dr Sarah Arnold &amp; Prof Philip Stevenson</b>		
<b>Direct Reports</b>			
<b>Indirect Reports:</b>			
<b>Other Key contacts:</b>	<b>Prof Jeremy Haggar Laboratory Technicians Research Facilities Manager Pest Behaviour and Chemical Ecology Research Groups Dr Michelle Fountain, NIAB-EMR Mr Richard Harnden/Dr Felix Wäckers</b>		
This role profile is non-contractual and provided for guidance. It will be updated and amended from time to time in accordance with the changing needs of the University and the requirements of the job.			

**PURPOSE OF ROLE:** To carry out the experimental research component of a new BBSRC IPA grant “Innovation for improved strawberry pollination by commercial bumblebees using caffeine”, consisting of laboratory and field experiments on behavioural responses of bumblebees to caffeine, to determine how behaviour can be modified to improve pollination services.

The Agriculture, Health and Environment Department at NRI requires a researcher with experience performing insect behavioural experiments, ideally with bumblebees, to work on a new BBSRC IPA project “Innovation for improved strawberry pollination by commercial bumblebees using caffeine” won by a team from NRI, University of Greenwich, NIAB-EMR and industrial partners Biobest and Berry Gardens Growers Ltd.

The researcher will be based mostly in the laboratory but will also contribute to field and semi-field studies. They will carry out experiments looking at the responses of bumblebees to caffeine and odour, in flight arena based learning and activity trials, and also semi-field pollination trials on real crops.

The project also includes work on bee olfaction and GC-EAG so prior experience with or willingness to learn electroantennography techniques will be highly advantageous.

### KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES:

#### Team Specific:

- Carry out scientific research to a high standard
- Assist in development of a novel method of improving bumblebee forage-focus using

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caffeine and floral odours

- Carry out behavioural experiments using bumblebees
- Publish scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals detailing the results of experiments

### **Generic:**

- Research: To maintain high professional standing within the discipline and to develop further their research skills, disseminated primarily in refereed academic journals.
- Represent the University at project meetings with partners
- Take part in Faculty activities as required

### **Managing Self**

- Be able to work both as part of a team and independently
- Be able to coordinate with collaborators, technicians and student researchers to perform the experiments required
- Be familiar with key literature and be able to identify literature in areas that are less familiar
- Work independently to achieve deadlines
- Regularly communicate progress to identified parties

### **Core Requirements**

- Adhere to and promote the University's policies on Equality and Diversity and Information Security policies
- Ensure compliance with Health & Safety regulations
- Support and promote the University's Sustainability policies, including the Carbon Management Plan, and carry out duties in a resource efficient way, recognising the shared responsibility of minimising the university's negative environmental impacts wherever possible.

### **Additional Requirements:**

- Travel to partner meetings, stakeholder sites (farms) and attend conferences occasionally as required
- Membership of the University of Greenwich Early Career Research Initiative (if relevant)
- Undertake such other duties as may reasonably be requested

### **KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:**

- Meet project deadlines, including deadlines for data preparation and analysis, publications, presentations, research group meetings, etc., within agreed timelines and targets
- Development of and familiarity with relevant literature
- Publication of research findings in international peer-reviewed journals
- Work effectively with project partners to produce research outputs

**KEY RELATIONSHIPS (Internal & External):**

Academic colleagues  
 Head of Department  
 Research group heads  
 NRI administrative and technical staff  
 Project stakeholders, academic and industry  
 Research community in area of subject specialism

**PERSON SPECIFICATION**

<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>
<p><b>Experience</b></p> <p>Prior experience with insect behavioural experiments                      Familiarity with pollination ecology</p> <p><b>Skills</b></p> <p>Proven ability to carry out scientific research                      Publication record                      Full driving licence valid in the UK</p> <p><b>Qualifications</b></p> <p>PhD in a relevant area</p>	<p><b>Experience</b></p> <p>Proven experience with bumblebee experiments                      Practical field ecology or agro-ecology experience</p> <p><b>Skills</b></p> <p>Electroantennography</p> <p><b>Qualifications</b></p> <p>N/A</p>