

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title:	Lecturer/Researcher in Agroecologist	Grade:	AC2
Department:	Natural Resources Institute Agriculture, Health and Environment Department	Date of Job Evaluation:	March 2017
Role reports to:	Head of Department		
Direct Reports:	N/A		
Indirect Reports:	N/A		
Other Key contacts:	Ecosystem Services Research Group Sustainable Agricultural Intensification Programme		
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:

The Natural Resources Institute is looking to employ a new researcher in plant agroecology to work within Ecosystem Services Research Group and support our environment, agriculture and biology teaching programmes. The position will contribute to NRI's Sustainable Agricultural Intensification Programme addressing the global challenge to increase food production while conserving the environment through developing sustainable food production systems that build upon ecosystem services, limit green-house gas emissions and biodiversity loss.

The post-holder will develop research related to the ecological processes that affect the sustainability of agricultural production and the trade-offs between productivity and ecosystem services either in the UK or developing countries. The candidate will complement existing expertise on integrated pest management in the Pest Behaviour and Chemical Ecology Research Groups and the social and economic aspects of sustainable agriculture in the Development Studies Research Group. NRI has a strong tradition of multi-disciplinary research to more effectively address real development challenges associated with Sustainable Agricultural Intensification, and within which the post-holder will have the opportunity to collaborate.

The candidate will be expected to contribute to funding applications from academically competitive sources such as the UK research councils, Global Challenge Research Fund and other national and international donors or foundations. They will be expected to be research active, publishing in international peer review journals. Typically, research will be conducted as part of a team both within their own institution and across institutions and countries.

The post-holder will be expected to lead a course on Applied Plant Ecology in the Integrated Master's in Biology programme and make limited contributions to other courses depending on their area of expertise. The job holder will also provide inputs to courses on the Agriculture for Sustainable Development Master's Programme.

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES:

The post-holder will work within NRI's Agriculture, Health and Environment Department and be affiliated to the Ecosystem Service Research Group. They will also collaborate with the teaching programme leaders for the Integrated Masters in Biology and MSc Agriculture for Sustainable Development.

Team Specific:

- Develop research projects on sustainable agriculture and productivity/environment trade-offs in agriculture.
- Contribute to major projects managing the work with NRI colleagues and external partners and operational budgets, and ensuring satisfactory delivery of contracted outputs to clients
- Contribute to teaching, training and curriculum development for undergraduate and taught postgraduates— specifically preparation and delivery of degree courses in their area of expertise
- Contribute to NRI's strategic plan to grow teaching income, attainment of high-impact research and development impacts.
- Identify and secure funding, on a full cost-recovery basis, for projects in environment and agriculture, complementary to teaching income.
- Meet agreed personal targets for commissioning.
- Represent NRI to clients, potential clients and partners and where appropriate in the media.
- Prepare results of NRI research and consultancy programmes for wider communication to different audiences.
- Publish of results in international peer reviewed journals.
- Supervise MPhil/PhD and MSc students.

Generic:

The position is a research track position and as such the balance between teaching and research is foreseen as 25% teaching and 75% research; although this may vary according to the success of the post-holder in obtaining funding for research and development activities.

The post-holder should over time develop and implement a portfolio of internationally excellent teaching and research activities that is financially self-sustaining and contribute to the overall mission of NRI. This will involve partnerships with colleagues inside NRI and the wider university as well as external to the organisation.

Although this post is UK-based, travel to overseas countries, potentially for extended periods of time, will be an essential element of the job.

The post-holder will be responsible for the effective management of projects and/or teaching programme according to the rules of NRI and the wider university. Coordination with academic and support staff are likely to be important aspects of this post.

The post-holder will work within the Agriculture, Health and Environment Department working closely with the Head of Department and Research Group leaders.

Managing Self:

- Continuously improve own knowledge of people, administrative systems and University working policy
- Maintain own continuous professional development (CPD)
- Continuously strengthen effective interpersonal skills

Core Requirements:

- Adhere to and promote the University's policies on Equality and Diversity and Information Security.
- 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:

- Any other duties appropriate to the post and grade.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

- Positive feedback from student satisfaction surveys.
- Low student attrition and high student achievement rates in accordance with University requirements.
- Evidence of increasing research profile e.g. a record of publication in international academic journals commensurate with participation in national evaluations of research quality.
- Securing grant and other forms of research funding to support their research.

KEY RELATIONSHIPS (Internal & External):

- Head of Department
- NRI Director
- Research Group/Programme Leaders,
- NRI academic staff
- Project Controllers

- Administrative colleagues in NRI
- Academic and administrative staff in other University Departments
- External collaborators on research and enterprise projects.

PERSON SPECIFICATION	
Essential	Desirable
Experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience in conducting research in sustainable agriculture, or plant ecology related to agricultural systems • Experience in teaching or demonstrating in their area of expertise at undergraduate level • Experience in participating in research teams • Experience in applying for research funding at some level • A recent record of publication in international peer-reviewed journals. Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent communication skills appropriate for a variety of audiences and media • Experience in applying for funding • Experience in quantitative analysis and scientific writing Qualifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PhD in plant ecology, agriculture or a closely related discipline Personal attributes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are looking for people who can help us deliver the values of the University of Greenwich 	Experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience in postgraduate teaching and/or supervision in the higher education sector • Experience in developing their own research project including conceptualization of the problem, design of research, application for funding, execution of project, and publication of results. Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to work in a second international language Qualifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post Graduate Certificate of Education Personal attributes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A