

RESOURCING/

JOB DESCRIPTION:

Research Associate



Ref Number:	NATS-294-24
Salary Scale:	Grade 7: £37,386 - £41,931 per annum
Contract:	For a fixed term period of 36 months AND Full-time
School/Department:	School of Biosciences
Location:	University of Kent, Canterbury Campus
Responsible to¹:	Professor Alessia Buscaino
Expected start date:	ASAP

The Role

A Research Associate position is available in the School of Biosciences at the University of Kent. We are looking for an enthusiastic and ambitious researcher to join the Kent Fungal Group/Buscaino laboratory.

The successful candidate will contribute to the development of a project funded by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, "Engineering Biology Hub for Microbial Food."

The award of a PhD in Microbiology/Genetics or related subject is required prior to taking up this position. Candidates in the final stages of completing their degree are encouraged to apply provided they can provide a reference attesting that their PhD viva will be held by 1st December 2024.

Appointment of the successful candidate is expected to start not later than 1st September 2024.

For informal enquiries, contact Professor Alessia Buscaino, School of Biosciences (email A. Buscaino@kent.ac.uk)

¹ Line Manager may be subject to change and will be confirmed in the employment contract issued to the successful candidate.



Key Accountabilities / Primary Responsibilities

- Undertake research at an internationally competitive level.
- Contribute to the development of the research project, specifically:
- Disseminate research results through peer-reviewed publications and conference presentations.

Key Duties

- Carry out the research programme described in the grant application
- Monitor and study literature related to the project
- Work closely with the supervisors, and, as necessary, with collaborative partners
- Design and execute the necessary experiments maintaining an up to date log of the research activity undertaken and of the obtained results
- Carefully plan the research activity making sure the milestones of the project are achieved within the expected timeframe
- Regularly update the supervisors on the progress of the research
- Write up the research outcomes for publication in high quality peer reviewed journals.
- Attend and present research findings at relevant national and international conferences
- Disseminate findings to a wider audience including non-scientists
- Contribute to further applications for funding an extension of this project or related work
- Assist in the supervision of undergraduates and postgraduate student research projects
- Be committed to your own personal career development, including continually updating knowledge and understanding in fields related to this research project.

Such other duties, commensurate with the grading of the post that may be assigned by the Head of Department or their nominee.

Health, Safety & Wellbeing Considerations

This role involves undertaking duties which include the Health, Safety and wellbeing issues outlined below. Please be aware of these, when considering your suitability for the role.

- Regular use of Display Screen Equipment
- Working with chemicals (inc. requirement to wear latex gloves and inc. work with CO₂ or N₂ gasses)
- Working with animals

Internal & External Relationships

Internal: Professor A Buscaino is the project supervisor; the post is situated within the Kent Fungal Group, part of the School of Biosciences, which encourages interactions in a dynamic interdisciplinary research environment.

External: Progressing relevant research by working with external collaborators both in the UK and overseas

Person Specification

The Person Specification details the necessary skills, qualifications, experience or other attributes needed to carry out the job. Please be aware that your application will be measured against the criteria published below.

Selection panels will be looking for clear evidence and examples in your application, or in your cover letter where applicable, which back-up any assertions you make in relation to each criterion.

Qualifications / Training	Essential	Desirable	Assessed via*
PhD in Microbiology/Genetics or related relevant discipline (or to be in the final stages of obtaining such a qualification)	✓		A, I

Experience / Knowledge	Essential	Desirable	Assessed via*
Experience in Yeast/Fungal Genetics	✓		A, I
Experience in CRISPR-Cas9 Genome Editing	✓		A, I
Experience in Yeast/Fungal Cell Biology		✓	A, I
A track record of publications as first or corresponding author in high quality peer review journals		✓	A
A track record of presentations at national and international conferences		✓	A, I
Experience in supervision or management of research projects		✓	A, I
Experience in writing research proposals		✓	A, I

Skills / Abilities	Essential	Desirable	Assessed via*
Ability to carry out research independently	✓		A,I
Excellent research skills in in fungal biology including genome editing by CRISPR-Cas9	✓		A,I
Good written and oral communication skills	✓		A,I
Good team working skills	✓		A,I
Ability to meet deadlines	✓		A,I
Good skills with computers for instrument control and data analysis		✓	A,I

Additional Attributes	Essential	Desirable	Assessed via*
Enthusiasm and motivation for research	✓		I
Ability to generate new research ideas		✓	I
A commitment to your own continuous professional development.		✓	I

***Criterion to be assessed via:**

A = application form or CV/cover letter

I = interview questions

T = test or presentation at interview