

Job Description

Research Associate

Salary:	Grade 7
Contract:	Full time/Part time, ongoing/fixed term
School/Department:	School of Biosciences
Location:	Canterbury
Responsible to:	Prof Alessia Buscaino

Job purpose

For the 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 Bezos Earth Fund through the Bezos Centre for Sustainable Protein

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 April 2025.

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

Key accountabilities

- 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

The following are the main duties for the job. Other duties, commensurate with the grading of the job, may also be assigned from time to time.

- Contribute to the design and execution of research projects, ensuring alignment with institutional and departmental goals.
- Develop research proposals and objectives, collaborating with colleagues to enhance project outcomes.
- Conduct individual and collaborative research, gathering and analysing data to derive meaningful conclusions.
- Organise, store and write up results and report regularly to the research group, partners and other stakeholders.
- Publish research findings in high quality peer reviewed journals and support in presenting results at conferences to share insights with the academic community.
- Carefully plan the research activity making sure the milestones of the project are achieved within the expected timeframe.
- Communicate research findings and complex information effectively to diverse audiences, both in writing and orally.
- Develop and submit proposals and applications to external funding bodies.
- Build and maintain professional relationships with colleagues, students, and external partners to foster collaboration and networking.

- Assist students with research skills, assess knowledge and supervise student projects.
- Manage research-related administrative tasks, ensuring compliance with ethical and regulatory standards.
- Participate in team meetings and contribute to discussions on research direction and strategy.
- Engage in continuous professional development to enhance research skills and knowledge in relevant areas, integrating new information into research activities where feasible.

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

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.

Health, safety & wellbeing considerations

This job involves undertaking duties which include the following health, safety and wellbeing considerations:

- Regular use of Screen Display Equipment
- Working with chemicals (inc. requirement to wear latex gloves and inc. work with CO₂ or N₂ gasses)
- Pressure to meet important deadlines such as might be inherent in high profile projects

Person specification

The person specification details the necessary skills, qualifications, experience or other attributes needed to carry out the job. Applications will be measured against the criteria published below.

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

Essential Criteria:

- PhD in Microbiology/Genetics or related relevant discipline (or to be in the final stages of obtaining such a qualification) (A)
- Ability to carry out research independently (A,I)
- Good written and oral communication skills (A, I)
- Good team working skills (A, I)
- Evidence of research excellence in Microbiology, including publications in internationally competitive journals and conference presentations (A,I)
- Firm commitment to achieving the University's vision and values, with a passion for a transformative student experience and multidisciplinary, impactful research (I)
- Commitment to deliver and promote equality, diversity and inclusivity in the day to day work of the role (I)

Desirable Criteria:

- Experience in Working with Filamentous Fungi (A, I)
- Experience in Biochemistry (A,I)
- A track record of publications as first or corresponding author in high quality peer review journals (A)
- Experience in writing research proposals (A,I)
- Good skills with computers for instrument control and data analysis (A,I)

Assessment stage: A - Application; I - Interview; T - Test/presentation at interview stage