



INSTITUTE FOR ANIMAL HEALTH
PIRBRIGHT LABORATORY

Research Assistant
POST REF: 09P/0030

JOB DESCRIPTION

The Institute for Animal Health (IAH) is one of five research institutes of the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and is at the forefront of research into animal diseases.

It is based on two sites: **Compton (near Newbury)** and **Pirbright (near Woking)** where this post is based. In total, the Institute employs some 400 staff and, at any one time, is host to up to 50 students and visiting scientists

PURPOSE

A Research assistant is needed to assist the principal investigator in carrying out the laboratory work involved in an applied research project developing and validating tests for the detection of animals that have been infected with foot-and-mouth disease virus (FMDV) despite prior vaccination. These tests are essential to the implementation of FMD control policies based on vaccination rather than slaughter.

JOB DESCRIPTION

The job description is only an outline of the tasks, responsibilities and outcomes required of the role. The jobholder will carry out any other duties as may be reasonably required by his/her line manager.

The job description and personal specification may be reviewed on an ongoing basis in accordance with the changing needs of the Human Resources Division and the Institute for Animal Health.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The key duties will be:

1. To register, process and store samples from experimental animals or received from outside of the laboratory **(10%)**
2. To carry out and record the results of laboratory tests such as virus isolation, ELISA, luminex ELISA and RT-PCR for the presence of FMDV, FMDV RNA, FMDV antibodies, or FMDV induced cytokines **(50%)**
3. To carry out the expression of FMDV non structural protein to use in ELISA **(20%)**
4. To monitor the performance of laboratory equipment in compliance with quality accreditation requirements **(20%)**

Essential

The Institute is engaged in Research work on a number of virus diseases of live stock, several of which, in particular foot-and-mouth disease, are highly infectious to livestock, therefore compliance with the Disease Security Regulations is an essential requirement of employment.

The Employee must not live on any premises where any cloven hoofed animals are kept, such as cattle, sheep, pigs, goats or deer, and must not visit any premises where such animals are kept within three days of entering the restricted area of the laboratory, or within five days of entering the restricted animal accommodation.

All employees shall actively participate in the IAH-wide quality assurance system in conjunction with the Institute Quality Manager. Employees are also expected to safeguard their own health and safety and security by following IAH policies and all employees are responsible for the Health and Safety and security of staff under their management.

QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

Essential

Science degree in Biology/equivalent lab experiences

Well motivated team player

A careful and organised approach to work and record keeping

Desirable

Experience with cell culture, ELISA, RT-PCR and molecular techniques, protein expression

Training in all techniques will be provided.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information or an informal discussion of how the Institute operates and the challenges which will face the successful candidate please telephone or write to the Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright Laboratory, Ash Road, Pirbright, Woking, Surrey, GU24 0NF (tel.01483 232 441) or email pirbright.hr@bbsrc.ac.uk

BENEFITS OF THE POST

The post is graded at Band C and is an indefinite contract, with funding for 3 years (funding end date 31st December 2011). Starting salary is £21,098 to £23,442 depending on qualifications and experience. On appointment, you are eligible to join the Research Council's Pension Scheme. You have the choice of either:

- an attractive, index-linked defined benefit pension scheme that currently has a 3.5% member contribution rate. The bulk of the cost of this scheme is met by the employer: or
- a stakeholder pension with a contribution from the employer. Our basic contribution is based on your age, and we pay this regardless of whether you choose to contribute anything. You do not have to contribute if you do not wish to but, if you do, we will also match your contributions up to an additional 3% of pay.

Annual leave is 27 days on appointment plus 10.5 days public and privilege holidays. The Institute has a subsidised child care scheme, staff restaurant and free parking. Staff work a 37 hour week, Monday to Friday.

Closing date: 1st March 2010