

# Job Description & Person Specification

Academic and Research roles

## JOB DESCRIPTION

<b>Job title</b>	Research Assistant (RA) HDRF research project
<b>School/Department</b>	School of Education & Social Sciences
<b>Division (if applicable)</b>	Social Sciences
<b>Programme (if applicable)</b>	Not applicable
<b>Location</b>	Paisley
<b>Reporting to</b>	Dr Vanesa Fuertes
<b>UWS grade</b>	Ac1.1
<b>FTE</b>	27 days – contract period and work schedule to be agreed with candidate

### Job summary

This Research Assistant (RA) position will contribute to a research project funded by Hannah Dairy Research Foundation (HDRF), led by the University of the West of Scotland in collaboration with the University of Exeter in England and Teagasc in Ireland

The research project will commence in January 2025 and will last for twelve months. The research investigates the social impact that wearable technology for cows (i.e. biosensor devices that monitor a range of biometrics in cows) has on farmers daily work task (i.e. labour processes) and their wellbeing (i.e. job satisfaction). The aim is to speak with 25 dairy farmers the majority of those based in Scotland, with a small number in England and Ireland.

The Research Assistant will be mainly expected to conduct interviews with farmers in Scotland. However, depending on the post holder's interest and time commitments, there is the possibility to be involved in the design of the research interviews, the data analysis, report writing, and dissemination of findings.

### People & finance responsibilities

<b>People</b>	N/A
<b>Finance</b>	N/A

### Key activities

- This role will involve both independent research work and working in collaboration with a small team of researchers based at UWS in Paisley.

- Undertake interviews with farmers or farm workers in Scotland either in person or online.
- The successful candidate will proactively engage with dairy farmers and dairy farming organisation to identify and recruit potential participants (farmers and farm workers).
- Depending on the post holder's interest and time preferences, there is the possibility to be involved other various aspect of the research such as: the design of the interviews, the analysis of the data collected, the writing of reports and journal articles, and the dissemination of research findings such as attending relevant conferences. This will be established with the candidate during the interviews.

## Job scope

<b>Planning and organising</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with the Principal Investigator (PI) to plan the recruitment and interviewing of participants.</li> <li>• Work independently to ensure that the plan progresses according to agreed overall timetable.</li> <li>• Organise own time so that different aspects of the project can proceed in parallel.</li> <li>• Review the plan together with the PI to adapt to any challenges and devise adequate courses of action.</li> <li>• Be proactive in interacting with the PI and other members of the research team to share information and ideas.</li> <li>• Depending on the candidate's agreed contribution to the project, planning and organisation in collaboration with the PI will extend to the design of the interviews, the analysis of the data collected, the writing of reports, and the dissemination of findings.</li> </ul>
<b>Decision making</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The post-holder should be able to organise their work schedule to ensure satisfactory progress and to meet the project aims.</li> <li>• The successful candidate will play an important role as a member of the team in making daily decisions about their own plan of work and the allocation of time and resources.</li> <li>• Manage day-to-day workload, making independent decisions about immediate priorities to meet short- and medium-term targets that have been agreed with the PI.</li> <li>• Depending on the candidate's agreed contribution to the project, the post holder will discuss with the PI other aspects of the project such as interview design, data analysis, findings writing and dissemination.</li> </ul>
<b>Working relationships –</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaise with other research team members and partners when relevant.</li> <li>• Build and/or use networks for participant recruitment and collaborations.</li> </ul>

<b><i>Liaison and Networking</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proactively engage with dairy farming organisation to identify and recruit potential participants (farmers and farm workers).</li> <li>• Proactively engage with farmers and farm workers to arrange interviews.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Working relationships – Communication</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deal with routine communication using a range of media.</li> <li>• Depending on the candidate’s agreed contribution to the project, the post holder will communicate findings orally, in writing and/or electronically to a range of stakeholders.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Working relationships – Teamwork</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work in close cooperation with the PI and other project investigators as required by the post holder agreed contribution.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Working relationships – Pastoral Care</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage personal and own project research and administrative activities, with guidance if required.</li> <li>• Show considerations to others.</li> </ul>

# PERSON SPECIFICATION

## Qualifications

			Evidence A = Application I = Interview
Essential	QE1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basic numeracy and literacy skills</li> </ul>	
Desirable	QD1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research experience</li> </ul>	

## Knowledge/Skills/ Experience

			Evidence A = Application I = Interview
Essential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EE1</li> <li>EE2</li> <li>EE3</li> <li>EE4</li> <li>EE5</li> <li>EE6</li> <li>EE7</li> <li>EE8</li> <li>EE9</li> <li>EE10</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drivers licence.</li> <li>Interest in research.</li> <li>Good communication and listening skills.</li> <li>Able to use a voice recording machine or Dictaphone.</li> <li>Capable of working collaboratively with others.</li> <li>Capable of working independently, exercising a high degree of initiative and demonstrating a proactive and flexible approach to work.</li> <li>Ability to work under pressure and meet agreed milestones.</li> <li>Ability to develop and maintain effective working relationships.</li> <li>Good time-keeping and time-management, with associated effective prioritisation of tasks.</li> <li>Ability to contribute ideas and initiate new ways of working.</li> </ul>	
Desirable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ED1</li> <li>ED2</li> <li>ED3</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Experience in doing research.</li> <li>Experience conducting interviews.</li> <li>Having presented in front of audiences.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ED4</b></li> <li>• <b>ED5</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience with farmers and farming communities.</li> <li>• Experience in farming studies and research.</li> </ul>	
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**Behaviours**

			<b>Evidence</b> <b>A =</b> <b>Application</b> <b>I =</b> <b>Interview</b>
<b>Essential</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>BE1</b></li> <li>• <b>BE2</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work collaboratively with others in industry and/or academia.</li> <li>• Keen to learn new skills.</li> </ul>	
<b>Desirable</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>BD1</b></li> <li>• <b>BD2</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsibility for regular progress reporting.</li> <li>• Contribute to interactions between farmers' communities</li> </ul>	

<b>Created/Updated (mm/yy):</b>	<b>11/24</b>
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