



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Support Officer, School of Food Science and Nutrition



Salary: Grade 5 (£25,742 – £29,605 p.a. depending on experience) Due to funding restrictions, an appointment will not be made higher than £28,759 p.a

Reporting to: Dr Christine Bosch

Reference: ENVFS1100

Fixed term for 6 months from 1st April 2024 to complete specific time limited work.

Location: University of Leeds campus

We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements.

Overview of the Role

We are looking for a Research Support Officer to join our team working on a BBSRC-funded proof-of-concept project on the utilisation of fruit protease activities for the smart development of functional protein products. The laboratory experimental research is to establish the effective conditions for a range of different protease preparations to hydrolyse selected proteins. Characterisation of hydrolysis products will unravel their potential for functional foods development, with emphasis on hypotensive and hypoglycaemic properties.

There is a need and increasing consumer demand for products that can demonstrate sustainability from sourcing to final product, based on clean ingredients and characterised by low processing input. The current concept is tapping into this space, providing innovative concepts for different applications of natural protease enzymes in foods but also functional foods and health applications.

As a Research Support Officer working on the project, you will be conducting laboratory research to determine the feasibility of the concept/approach. You will be working with the academics and research group members, and be in contact with the industrial partner. Apart from the lab-based research, you will be analysing the experimental results and preparing data for reporting and dissemination.

You will have a BSc degree in a relevant field, a strong background in protein chemistry and enzyme biochemistry, and analytical skills in protein hydrolysis and peptide biological characterisation. You will also have experience of working within a research environment, good organisational and communication skills and the ability to work collaboratively, including with people from different scientific or technical background, and with members of the general public.

Main duties and responsibilities

As a Research Support Officer, your main duties will include:

- Conducting experiments to characterize different protease activities;
- Determine optimal conditions of target protein hydrolysis to elicit biological peptides with hypoglycaemic and hypotensive properties;



- Characterise biological properties of protein hydrolysates using different biochemical assays;
- Preparing reports for laboratory work, materials and protocols as required, and preparing progress reports for the project in a timely manner;
- Liaising with research team members, ensuring excellent communication;
- Contributing to the health and safety assessment of the research team as required, including COSHH, SOPs, data and risk assessments;
- Working independently and also as part of a larger team of researchers, engaging in knowledge-transfer activities where appropriate and feasible;
- Liaising with research team members, ensuring excellent communication.

These duties provide a framework for the role and should not be regarded as a definitive list. Other reasonable duties may be required consistent with the grade of the post.

Qualifications and skills

Essential

- A BSc degree in Food Science, Food Science and Nutrition, Biology/Biochemistry or a similar degree;
- Strong background in protein chemistry and enzyme biochemistry;
- Analytical skills in protein hydrolysis and peptide biological characterisation;
- Working experience within a research environment;
- Good interpersonal and communication skills, both written and verbal and the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of stakeholders;
- The ability to work collaboratively, including with people from different scientific or technical backgrounds and with members of the general public;
- Excellent interpersonal skills, including the ability to maintain strong working relationships with colleagues at all levels;
- Experience of working proactively and effectively, both independently and as part of a team;
- Excellent organisational skills, with a proven ability to prioritise and plan your work independently to tight deadlines, and to manage conflicting priorities.

Desirable

- A MSc degree in a relevant subject such as Food Science and Nutrition, Food Technology, Biochemistry;



- Experience in contributing to the writing of scientific papers for publication;
- Experience in an administrative role including health and safety management within a UK Higher Education;
- Previous experience of working with industry would be an asset.

How to apply

You can apply for this role online; more guidance can be found on our [How to Apply](#) information page. Applications should be submitted by **23.59** (UK time) on the advertised closing date.

Contact information

To explore the post further or for any queries you may have, please contact:

Dr Christine Bosch

Email: c.bosch@leeds.ac.uk

Additional information

Please note: If you are not a British or Irish citizen, from 1 January 2021 you will require permission to work in the UK. This will normally be in the form of a visa but, if you are an EEA/Swiss citizen and resident in the UK before 31 December 2020, this may be your passport or status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

Find out more about the [Faculty of Environment](#).

Find out more about the [School of Food Science and Nutrition](#)

Working at Leeds

We are a campus based community and regular interaction with campus is an expectation of all roles in line with academic and service needs and the requirements of the role. We are also open to discussing flexible working arrangements. To find



out more about the benefits of working at the University and what it is like to live and work in the Leeds area visit our [Working at Leeds](#) information page.

Our University

As an international research-intensive university, we welcome students and staff from all walks of life. We foster an inclusive environment where all can flourish and prosper, and we are proud of our strong commitment to student education. Within the School of Food Science and Nutrition we are dedicated to diversifying our community and we welcome the unique contributions that individuals can bring, and particularly encourage applications from, but not limited to Black, Asian, people who belong to a minority ethnic community; people who identify as LGBT+; and disabled people. Candidates will always be selected based on merit and ability

The Faculty of Environment has received a prestigious Athena SWAN silver award from [Advance HE](#), the national body that promotes equality in the higher education sector. This award represents the combined efforts of all schools in the Faculty and shows the positive actions we have taken to ensure that our policies, processes and ethos all promote an equal and inclusive environment for work and study.

Information for disabled candidates

Information for disabled candidates, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found on our [Accessibility](#) information page or by getting in touch with us at hr@leeds.ac.uk

Criminal Record Information

Any offer of appointment will be in accordance with our Criminal Records policy. You can find out more about required checks and declarations in our [Criminal Records](#) information page.

