



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Officer, School of Food Science and Nutrition



Salary: Grade 6 (£31,396 p.a. - £37,099) This role cannot be appointed above £31,396 p.a. due to funding restrictions.

Reference: ENVFS1114

Fixed-term for 18 months, from October 2024 or very soon thereafter

This role will be based on the university campus.

We are also open to discussing flexible working arrangements.

Research Officer

School of Food Science and Nutrition, Faculty of Environment

Are you an exceptional graduate looking for an exciting challenge? Do you want to be involved in real world research that has the potential to make a difference to children's dietary health and wellbeing? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research-intensive universities?

We are seeking a Research Officer to join our exciting project based at the School of Food Science and Nutrition, University of Leeds, within Dr Ensaff's research group, and in partnership with an international organization working on public health. You will join a highly dynamic, interdisciplinary team, to explore children's food and beverages within school settings. You will engage with stakeholders in schools, conduct data collection (including with children), and contribute to our understanding of behavioural science in improving children's food and beverage choice in schools.

You will have a positive approach to collaborative research, an interest in children's food choice in school settings and the drive to make a substantial contribution to this work. Alongside this, you will have excellent communication, interpersonal and time management skills. This post entails substantial travel and field work in Jamaica (up to 18 weeks).

An enhanced disclosure check from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) is required for this post but can be applied for on appointment.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

As Research Officer your main duties will include:

- Contributing to research activities related to food choice in school settings, working closely with Dr Ensaff and in partnership with an international organization working on public health;
- Project planning and co-ordination of activities for the project;
- Engagement on-the-ground with school leaders and decision-makers in Jamaica;
- Substantial international travel (up to 18 weeks) to support engagement and data collection in the field, including with children;



- Data collection and interpretation to inform the direction and progression of the project;
- Participation at meetings and providing progress updates, feedback and suggestions on resolving problems;
- Generating project outputs, in collaboration with Dr Ensaff and an international organisation working on public health;
- Working both independently and as part of a team of researchers and stakeholders;
- Contributing to the research culture of the School, where appropriate;
- Continually updating your knowledge, understanding and skills in the field in which you work.

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

- An undergraduate or postgraduate degree in Nutrition, Public Health, Psychology, Behavioural Science or a closely allied discipline;
- An interest in children's food choice in school settings;
- Strong skills in reviewing literature, data collection and interpretation, and report writing;
- Well-developed analytical skills;
- Excellent attention to detail, and ability to maintain accurate and organised records;
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, and the ability to liaise and communicate effectively with a wide range of stakeholders;
- Excellent organisation skills, and a proven ability to meet tight deadlines and manage conflicting priorities;
- A proven ability to work unsupervised and to use your own initiative;
- A flexible approach and a passion for working with multiple stakeholders including in international settings;
- The flexibility to undertake UK and international travel as and when necessary;
- Experience in low- and middle-income settings;



- A willingness to develop within the role, proactively identifying appropriate training in personal and professional development.

Desirable

- A PhD (or close to completion) in the area of Public Health Nutrition, Public Policy, Behavioural Science or a closely allied discipline;
- Experience of working in a school setting;
- Experience of working with stakeholders.

How to apply

You can apply for this role online; more guidance can be found on our [How to Apply](#) information. 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 Hannah Ensaff

Email: h.ensaff@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.

Please note that this post may be suitable for sponsorship under the Skilled Worker visa route but first-time applicants might need to qualify for salary concessions. For more information please visit: www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa

For research and academic posts, we will consider eligibility under the Global Talent visa. For more information, please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/global-talent>



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

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

Find out more about our [Research and associated facilities](#)

Find out more about [Equality in the Faculty](#)

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 & 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

This post requires an enhanced criminal record check from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), and any equivalent overseas authorities where relevant. The successful candidate will be required to give consent for the University to check their criminal record status. All applicants are required to make a self-declaration where applicable.

Any offer of appointment will be subject to the University being satisfied with the outcome of these checks in accordance with our Criminal Records policy. You can find out more about required checks and declarations in our [Criminal Records](#) information page.

