



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in Modelling Complex Systems, Faculty of Biological Sciences



Salary: Grade 7 (£32,004– £38,183 p.a.)

Reference: FBSBY1066

Closing date: 18 May 2017

Fixed-term for 36 months

School of Biology, Faculty of Biological Sciences

Research Fellow in Modelling Complex Systems

Faculty of Biological Sciences

Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have an established background in modelling complex systems? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive Universities?

As part of the PIGSustain project funded by the [Global Food Security](#) you will work closely with a large team of researchers and stakeholders across multiple disciplines in leading institutions across the UK. You will use a systems modelling approach to investigate the resilience of a complex system, the UK pig industry, in response to projected future shocks and trends.

PIGSustain will gather data in order to understand how sustainable intensification and predicted climate changes are expected to impact on the entire pig industry – from the health, disease and welfare of the animals, to consumption patterns and retail prices, which ultimately impact farmers. Gathering information on emerging diseases with the UK pig population is particularly important for the team because, unlike any other animal, it is possible for pigs to translate animal diseases into human forms.

You will have a PhD (or close to completion) in modelling complex systems or a closely allied discipline along with experience in creating, writing, enhancing, and running code in R/Matlab/Python. Excellent communication skills with the ability to talk to different audiences is necessary, as you will be collaborating with a large team of researchers across multiple disciplines.

What does the role entail?

As a Research Fellow, your main duties will include:

- Designing, planning and conducting a programme of investigation, in consultation with [Professor Lisa Collins](#);
- Generating independent and original research ideas and methods in modelling complex systems with an aim to extend the PigSustain research portfolio;



- Making a significant contribution to the dissemination of research results by publication in leading peer-reviewed journals, and by presentation at national and international meetings;
- Working independently and as part of a larger team of researchers, both internally and externally to develop new research links and collaborations and engage in knowledge transfer activities where appropriate;
- Contributing to the supervision of junior researchers and PhD students and acting as a mentor to less experienced colleagues;
- Evaluating methods and techniques used and results obtained by other researchers and relating such evaluations to your own research;
- To contribute to, and to encourage, a safe working environment.

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.

What will you bring to the role?

As a Research Fellow, you will have:

- A PhD (or close to completion) in modelling complex systems or a closely allied discipline;
- Experience in creating, writing, enhancing, and running code in R/Matlab/Python;
- Strong analytical skills, with the ability to work accurately and carefully, designing, executing and writing up research independently;
- A developing track record of peer reviewed publications in international journals;
- Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal and the ability to communicate your research at national and international conferences, to academics in other disciplines and to stakeholders;
- The ability to work well both independently and as part of a team;
- Strong initiative and a pro-active approach, with excellent organisational, planning and self-management skills, including the ability to prioritise workloads to meet deadlines/demand and deliver high quality under pressure.



You may also have:

- Experience in a field of research relating to Animal Science, or Agriculture;
- Evidence of pursuing external funding to support research.

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:

[Lisa Collins](#), Professor of Animal Science

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 5940

Email: L.Collins@leeds.ac.uk

Additional information

Find out more about the [Faculty of Biological Sciences](#) and the [School of Biology](#)

Working at Leeds

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

A diverse workforce

The Faculty of Biological Sciences is proud to have been awarded the Athena SWAN Bronze Award from the Equality Challenge Unit, the national body that promotes equality in the higher education sector. Our equality and inclusion webpage provides more information.

Candidates with disabilities

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



Criminal record information

Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

A criminal record check is not required for this position. However, all applicants will be required to declare if they have any 'unspent' criminal offences, including those pending.

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.

