Research Fellow

ROWETT INSTITUTE, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, MEDICAL SCIENCES AND NUTRITION

Closing date: 15 July 2022
Interview date: To Be Confirmed
Reference number: ROW094R
INTRODUCTION

The Rowett Institute, University of Aberdeen, is world-leading in nutrition research focussing on some of the key global challenges with regards to healthy and sustainable diets. The research contributes not only to new scientific knowledge, but also to new understanding to underpin Government policy and to inform innovation for industry leading to increased economic growth. Our main source of funding is from the Scottish Government funded Strategic Research Programme (SRP) which we deliver along with five other globally renowned institutes as part of Scottish Environment, Food and Agriculture Research Institutions.

This position is based at The Rowett Institute and is funded for three years by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC). The research grant award is for a new inter-disciplinary project called ‘FIO-FOOD’ to investigate Food Inequalities and Obesity, with emphasis on the retail food environment. There are 9 academic partners with food sector collaboration to deliver science that supports interventions to transforming the UK food system for healthy people and a healthy environment.

JOB DESCRIPTION

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE ROLE:

You should be a dynamic and motivated researcher with a PhD or about to obtain a PhD and have fundamental expertise in a nutrition-related discipline. The project will investigate retail strategies to support healthy and sustainable food choices in people living with obesity and facing food inequalities. This requires an individual with excellent organisation and written/oral communication skills to support project goals. The candidate should have experience in working with the food sector. You would be required to work within a multidisciplinary team to contribute to research and dissemination activities through publication and knowledge exchange. The appointment will be under the direction of Professor Alex Johnstone at the Rowett Institute, one of the foremost nutrition research institutes in Europe addressing some of the most compelling contemporary problems in nutrition. The Rowett Institute has excellent facilities to support this work. Training will be provided to enable the successful candidates to extend and complement their existing skills.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Responsible for the day-to-day running and reporting of the research project
- Researching the relevant literature (when required), planning meetings, reporting to the wider project team
- Supporting the qualitative aspects of research
- Liaising with the research team, preparing presentations, publications, and reports.
- Contributing to project dissemination activities through publication and knowledge exchange.
CANDIDATE BACKGROUND

Education

- PhD in a nutrition-related science subject, or about to be awarded a PhD

Knowledge and Skills

- Knowledge of human metabolism and health
- Ability to work autonomously and as part of a multi-disciplinary team
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Excellent time management skills
- Ability to work with human volunteers and relate well to staff, students and visitors

Experience (required)

- Experience in working with the food sector to support research goals
- Experience in co-ordinating a nutrition research study
- Evidence of working towards a track record of peer-reviewed publications

Experience (desirable)

- Experience in organising and handling large datasets and evaluating data
- Experience of communicating science to the general public and stakeholders
**Terms of Appointment**

Salary will be at the appropriate point on Grade 6, £34,304 - £36,382 per annum, and negotiable with placement according to qualifications and experience.

Candidates who are nearing the completion of their PhD will be appointed as a Research Assistant on the Grade 5 salary scale, £28,756 - £32,344 per annum, and assimilated to Grade 6 upon successful completion of their PhD.

Any appointment will be made subject to satisfactory references and probation period.

For further information on various staff benefits and policies please visit www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here

This role is based in the UK and as such the successful candidate will be required to live and work in the UK.

Should you require a visa to undertake employment in the UK you will be required to fulfil the minimum points criteria to be granted a Certificate of Sponsorship under the requirements of the Skilled Worker visa. At the time an offer of appointment is made, you will be asked to demonstrate that you fulfil the criteria in respect of qualification and competency in English. For research and academic posts, we will consider eligibility under the Global Talent visa. Please do not hesitate to contact Grant Rae, HR Adviser (grant.rae@abdn.ac.uk) for further information.

Candidates appointed to Grade 5 will not be eligible for sponsorship on a Skilled Worker visa.

---

**AT A GLANCE**

**Salary:**
Grade 6
£34,304 - £36,382 per annum

**Hours of Work:**
Full-Time, 37.5 hours per week

**Contract Type:**
Funding-Limited for 36 months

**Location:**
Aberdeen
## PERSON SPECIFICATION

### Education/Qualifications

**Academic, technical and professional education and training**

- PhD in a nutrition science discipline or about to be awarded

### Work and Other relevant experience (including training)

**e.g. Specialist knowledge, levels of experience, supervisory experience, research**

- Knowledge of human metabolism and health
- Experience in working with a food sector collaborator for research goals
- Ability to work autonomously and as part of a multi-disciplinary team
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Excellent time management skills
- Ability to work with human volunteers and relate well to staff, students and visitors

**Experience as a post-doctoral fellow or project lead**
- Experience of communicating science to the general public.
- Experience in organising and handling large datasets and evaluating data
- Evidence of working towards a track record of peer-reviewed publications and presenting at scientific conferences

### Personal qualities and abilities

**e.g. initiative, leadership, ability to work on own or with others, communication skills**

- Ability to work autonomously, taking the initiative and as part of a multi-disciplinary team
- Excellent communication skills
- Excellent organisational and time management skills
- Ability to work as part of a team and relate well to staff, students and visitors
- Indication of interest in knowledge exchange activities (i.e. science day or public event)

**Highly motivated and ambitious**

### Other

**e.g. special circumstances (if any) appropriate to the role such as unsocial hours, travelling, Gaelic language requirements etc.**

- Flexibility to work outside of normal working hours to travel for overnight trip to support academic centres or stakeholder meetings
The University of Aberdeen is a broad based, research intensive University, and we put students at the centre of everything we do. Outstanding in a wide range of discipline areas, Aberdeen is credited for its international reach and commercialisation of research ideas into spin out companies. The University has over 16,000 matriculated students and 3,600 staff representing 130 nationalities. We encourage bold thinking, creativity and innovation, and we nurture ambition with many opportunities for professional and personal development in an inclusive learning environment which challenges and inspires.

CURRENT CONTEXT

The University continues to build on its achievements. Underpinning our high performance and significant growth is a £100m investment in Aberdeen’s estate which will include the completion of a new Science Teaching Hub, the regeneration of the historic King’s Quarter and a new Business School building. The University has also invested in 50 new academic posts and in 2020 launched five interdisciplinary, cross-institution Research Centres that will catalyse world-leading research in our areas of strength. Our five Interdisciplinary Challenges are: Energy Transition; Social Inclusion and Cultural Diversity; Environment and Biodiversity; Data and Artificial Intelligence; and Health, Nutrition and Wellbeing.

ABERDEEN 2040

On our 525th anniversary as a University we launched Aberdeen 2040, our strategic vision for the next 20 years. Four strategic themes will shape our learning and discovery, underlined by 20 commitments we have made against each theme:

- **Inclusive**
  We welcome students, staff and partners from all backgrounds, organisations and communities. We value diversity.

- **Interdisciplinary**
  We innovate in education and research by generating, sharing and applying new kinds of knowledge. We learn together.

- **International**
  We connect with others and extend our networks and partnerships around the world. We think across borders.

- **Sustainable**
  We understand and nurture our environment, and take care of our resources, including our people and finances. We work responsibly.
OUR EDUCATION
Recognised as the Scottish University of the Year in the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019, we remain true to our roots as an ancient Scottish university, combining breadth and depth in our degree programmes and drawing strength from the quality of our research. Our flexible curriculum encourages students to grow as independent learners and therefore to thrive as graduates in the diverse workplaces of the future. Our education is open to all and we are setting ambitious targets to further widen access.

OUR RESEARCH
Researchers at the University of Aberdeen have been at the forefront of innovation and excellence throughout the centuries, generating insights in medicine, science, engineering, law, social sciences, arts and humanities. This research has contributed to five Nobel prizes as well as other awards such as the Queen’s Anniversary prize. Our research is intellectually rigorous working within our established areas of excellence as well as new methods of enquiry. We will continue to generate new knowledge addressing economic and societal issues with ambition and imagination, ensuring that it is globally excellent and locally relevant.

INTERNATIONAL
Aberdeen is increasing its international presence, positioning the University as a global organisation and building on established global partnerships in e.g. Qatar, China, North America, Europe. We feature in the top 50 institutions worldwide for international students¹ and have been named 31st in the world for International Outlook². The University of Aberdeen is proud to be the first UK University to deliver programmes on a dedicated campus in Qatar in partnership with AFG College. Phase 1 has successfully recruited over 600 students and Phase 2 will see the creation of a substantially larger campus, with capacity for at least 5,000 students and research activity. For further information on our Qatar campus visit www.abdn.ac.uk/qatar.

IMPACT
Our dedication to building a sustainable future is reflected in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2021 where we were ranked in the top 60 Universities worldwide for positive impact on society.
In 2020 the University signed the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals accord, solidifying our commitment to developing the world in a sustainable way. In 2021 we were listed in the global Top 50 for 6 of these goals and in the UK Top 20 for all 17³.

¹ QS World University Rankings 2022
² Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2022
³ Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2021
The School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition

The School (https://www.abdn.ac.uk/smmn/index.php) encompasses all of the disciplines that underpin today's medicine, including biomedical sciences, health sciences, nutrition and medical, medical science and dental education and these are organised into five Institutes. The largest school in the University, the SMMSN has five Institutes: the Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS), the Institute of Applied Health Sciences (IAHS), the Rowett Institute, the Institute of Education in Healthcare and Medical Sciences (IEHMS) and the Institute of Dentistry, comprising all of our undergraduate and postgraduate programmes and our own graduate entry Dental School.

Staff are line managed and research opportunities are supported through our institutes which work together in an integrated and coordinated way to deliver research and teaching across the School, details of which can be found on their websites as below.

- The Institute of Applied Health Sciences https://www.abdn.ac.uk/iahs/
- The Institute of Medical Sciences http://www.abdn.ac.uk/ims/
- The Rowett Institute http://www.abdn.ac.uk/rowett/
- The Institute of Education in Healthcare and Medical Sciences https://www.abdn.ac.uk/IEHMS/
- The Institute of Dentistry https://www.abdn.ac.uk/dental/ https://www.abdn.ac.uk/dental/

Within the IMS, our scientists are working towards the creation of effective therapies for patients with a range of debilitating and life-threatening conditions. Current research areas include: arthritis and musculoskeletal medicine; cell developmental and cancer biology; immunity, infection and inflammation; metabolic and cardiovascular health; microbiology and translational neuroscience.

Within the IAHS, research is focused on improving health and health care delivery. It is home to a multidisciplinary grouping of around 100 university academic staff who conduct population and clinically-orientated health research and hosts the Health Services Research Unit (HSRU) and Health Economics Research Unit (HERU), both funded by the Chief Scientist's Office (CSO) of the Scottish Government.

As well as being the organisational home to the teaching scholarship staff and responsible for oversight of the UG and PGT programmes offered by the School, the IEHMS promotes and supports excellence in medical education through research and development, with a focus on conceptually and theoretically robust research and development which has strong potential for reaching international recognition. The highly regarded University of Aberdeen MBChB programme and several postgraduate programmes including a Masters in Clinical Education are delivered by IEHMS.
The Dental Institute runs an undergraduate BDS programme and a growing suite of masters programmes for professional development.

We have a number of specialist Centres representing areas of particular research strength and capacity within the School all of which are willing to support colleagues on projects in their areas. More information is available at the following websites.

- The Centre for Healthcare Education Research and Innovation (https://www.abdn.ac.uk/cheri/)
- The Centre for Health Data Science (https://www.abdn.ac.uk/achds/)
- The Aberdeen Cardiovascular & Diabetes Centre (https://www.abdn.ac.uk/acdc/) and
- The Aberdeen Centre for Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Health (https://www.abdn.ac.uk/acamh/)

The School is home to over 800 staff and 2000fte students. It is located on the Foresterhill site, shared with our main clinical partner, NHS Grampian, with whom we work in close collaboration at primary and secondary care levels.

This is one of the largest integrated healthcare delivery, training and research sites in Europe and has rich assets including state-of-the-art academic (research and teaching) and clinical buildings. Excellent infrastructure is also provided through core facilities for biomedical science including flow cytometry, proteomics, microscopy and genome sequencing, support for data health science projects and clinical trials.

The last major academic capital development was the opening of the Rowett Institute, occupied in March 2016, whose staff undertakes nutrition research to help improve people’s lives through the prevention of ill-health and disease. Their new £40M building has provided the University of Aberdeen with a facility with unique capabilities for human nutrition and metabolic research.
Scotland’s third largest city, Aberdeen sits on the coast between the mountains of Aberdeenshire and the stunning North Sea coastline. The Aberdeen City region is a can-do place that is actively investing, at scale, in its future.

Renowned as a Global Energy Hub, Aberdeen is a vibrant, entrepreneurial region, home to a unique mix of business opportunities and specialist skills across various sectors including energy, technology, life sciences and food & drink. More than 20% of Scotland’s top businesses are located in this region which is taking great strides to ensure that it continues to compete on a world stage. Investments of more than £10 billion of public and private infrastructure is due to be delivered before 2030, marking an exciting time to be part of a genuine world-class location.

Built from sparkling local granite Aberdeen has earned the name of the Silver City. As the energy capital of Europe, Aberdeen nevertheless retains its old-fashioned charm and character making it an attractive place in which to live, work and study. Due to its global business and international energy industry credentials, Aberdeen is well served by local and national transport infrastructure with excellent rail networks that run both North and South of Scotland and the rest of the UK. It also acts as an international travel hub. Flying time to London is just over one hour with regular daily flights and serves international travel to European centres such as Amsterdam (Schiphol) and Paris (Charles de-Gaulle) as well as flights to other European destinations.

The City and the surrounding countryside provide a variety of urban, seaside and country attractions. Aberdeen has first class amenities including His Majesty’s Theatre, Music Hall, Art Gallery, the P&J Arena, Museums, and Beach Leisure Centre. The City is framed by its accessible beach front which is within a short walk of the city centre and there are an array of activities available across the region such as hill walking; mountaineering; sailing; surfing; salmon, trout and sea fishing; golf; sailing; surfing and windsurfing. The surrounding countryside, known as Aberdeenshire, is also one of Scotland’s most appealing regions. Royal Deeside and the Cairngorms National Park are within easy access of the city, and there are a variety of towns and villages scattered along the coastline.

Aberdeen has ranked consistently highly in nationally recognised quality of life surveys, and was recently named the happiest city in the UK to live and work in.

To find our more visit www.visitabdn.com

---

4 Shawbrook Bank Happiest Cities Index 2021
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

The University values a diverse working environment and recognises the benefits this can bring. The University is keen to receive applications from individuals from across all of the equality protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation).

The University supports opportunities for flexible working for a range of reasons and has policies in place to facilitate this. The policies can be found at https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here/flexible-working--5607.php.

The University’s commitment to gender equality has been recognised through the achievement of an Athena SWAN Bronze award at an institutional level and across all its subject areas. The University is also a Stonewall Diversity Champion to further LGBT+ equality.

The University is signed up to Advance HE’s Race Equality Charter, affirming the University’s commitment to the charter’s aim of improving the representation, progression and success of minority ethnic staff and students within higher education.

Candidates who are British Sign Language (BSL) users can contact us directly by using contact SCOTLAND-BSL.

The University is delighted to be accredited as a Disability Confident employer and strives to ensure that disabled staff and students have the opportunity to work and study in an inclusive, accessible and supportive environment.

www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/governance/equality-and-diversity-277

HOW TO APPLY

Online application forms are available at www.abdn.ac.uk/jobs

The closing date for receipt of applications is 15 July 2022

Should you wish to make an informal enquiry please contact:

Professor Alexandra Johnstone, Personal Chair
Alex.johnstone@abdn.ac.uk

Please do not send application forms or CVs to Professor Johnstone.

Please quote reference number ROW094R on all correspondence