 

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

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| **Job Title:** Research Technician Soil Microbial Ecology  | **Present Grade:** G5, 1.0 FTE |
| **Department/College:** LEC |
| **Directly responsible to:** Richard Bardgett |
| **Supervisory responsibility for:** None |
| **Other contacts**  |
| **Internal:** Academic, technical and research staff and post-graduate students.Staff and students within the Centre for Sustainable Soils (CSS) and LEC. |
| **External:** Collaborating research scientists involved in the project. |
| **Purpose of role:**This six-month role will provide technical support for an ERC funded project on the diversity and stability of soil microbiomes. The post will involve assisting in the sampling and laboratory processing of soil and vegetation samples from a mesocosms experiment that was designed to test how plant diversity and nutrient enrichment moderate soil microbial responses to drought. **Key Competencies:**Experience in the analysis of soils for nutrients and microbial properties using a range of experimental approaches. Competent in the use of data management software (Excel and R), field sampling of soils, and in the safe handling of chemicals for analysis of soil nutrients pools. Good organisation skills to ensure efficient running of the project. ***Service Delivery / Workspace Specific Duties**** Assist in the sampling of soils and vegetation, including roots, from mesocosm and/or laboratory experiments
* Carry out routine laboratory research duties as directed by the grant project lead and staff using a range of equipment for assessment of soil nutrients and
* Assist in the preparation of soil and vegetation samples for laboratory analysis
* Be responsible for some local laboratory budgeting related to the project and the purchasing and procurement of consumables and equipment
* Meticulous data management and assistance with basic statistical analyses
* Participate in the preparation and collation of data for scientific publications
* Maintain all laboratory stock materials

***Teamwork and Motivation**** Work in this role is largely independent after training and so role holder should be able to manage workload and demands, with oversight by the project PI and project PDRAs.
* Assist and support other staff in the Centre for Sustainable Soil.

***Health, Safety and Wellbeing**** Work safely in the laboratory and carry out COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health) and risk assessments as necessary and disseminate information appropriately.
* Ensure safe working practices in the laboratories and facilities are adhered to where appropriate.
* Ensure understanding of and correct disposal for hazardous materials.
* Identify and report building and service faults appropriately.

***Teaching and Research***There is no teaching requirement for this role although limited laboratory supervision of post graduate students may be required. ***Planning and Organisation***The project requires planning and preparation for sampling campaigns and in preparation and storage of soil samples for laboratory analysis.***Communication***Regular meetings with the project PI and the PDRA will be required to ensure that the project is running efficiently.***Other***There is the potential to be required to undertake any other duties appropriate to the grade of the post as required by the Head of Department or their nominated representative. |