

Job description

Senior Research Associate/Research Associate

Ref: A2772

Job Title: Senior Research Associate/Research Associate - Plant Biochemist (RA/SRA RIPE)	Present Grade: 6/7
Department/College:	Lancaster Environment Centre
Directly responsible to:	Dr Elizabete Carmo-Silva
Supervisory responsibility for:	n/a
<p>Other contacts</p> <p>Internal: Prof Martin Parry, research staff and students within the Photosynthesis research team and the Lancaster Environment Centre. Admin staff. Colleagues at the Biological Life Sciences Department.</p> <p>External: Project partners at University of Illinois and other institutions within RIPE. Stakeholders as necessary (e.g. BMGF, FFAR, DFID, BBSRC).</p>	
<p>Major Duties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be responsible for the design of experiments that address the project objectives and contribute to improving the productivity of crops such as cowpea and soybean, including biochemical characterization of Rubisco activities and regulatory properties. • Develop a high-throughput pipeline for testing Rubisco function <i>in vitro</i> using an efficient expression system and assay for Rubisco activity. • Test the efficiency of Rubisco activation by Rca isoforms <i>in vitro</i>, using purified recombinant proteins. • Lead the characterization of genetically engineered plants grown under controlled environment conditions and in field trials at Illinois/Puerto Rico for improved Rubisco function. • Resolve practical and theoretical problems concerning methodology, analysis and ethics that arise whilst conducting research. • Ensure adequate paper work is in place (including protocols, workflows, risk assessments, etc). • Present research at internal and external meetings, including major international conferences. Present research at RIPE annual meetings. • Plan and manage own research activities and priorities, as required to meet project targets. • Complete project milestones in an organized and timely fashion. Write project reports for the funder and stakeholders. Ensure all project IP rules are adhered to. • Review literature in a timely manner. Keep up-to-date with advances in this scientific area, including methodologies/SOPs, for example through membership of professional or academic bodies/societies and by attending relevant training courses. • Make new connections with researchers from different but related areas, who share a common interest. Engage with colleagues, collaborators and project co-investigators. Implement inter-objective collaborations to reach the overall goals of RIPE. • Explore key research areas for added value to the project, and where appropriate seek possible sources of funding for such activities. • Any other duties as may be reasonably required by the line manager. 	

The above described duties are for a senior research associate (SRA, grade 7) and will be adjusted to a lower level of responsibility and leadership for a research associate (RA, grade 6).