

## Teagasc Job Specification

### Contract Research Officer – Sensory Panel Manager (Meat Technology Ireland) (Ref: CRO/MTI/0717) (Externally Funded Non Grant-in-Aid)

- Post Type:** Temporary Externally Funded Non Grant-in-Aid contract post, the indicative duration of which is 36 months, subject to contract.
- A panel may be formed from which future similar vacancies may be filled; such a panel will remain active for a maximum period of 12 months.
- Title of Project:** Sensory analysis to support Meat Technology Ireland.
- Location:** Teagasc Food Research Centre, Ashtown, Dublin 15.
- Reporting To:** Head of Department and/or other nominated manager as maybe identified from time to time.
- Grade/Salary:** Research Officer, with a starting salary of €32,729 per annum. The current salary scale is €32,729 to €63,700.
- Starting pay will be at the minimum of the scale per Government Circular E100/8/82. Exceptional circumstances may apply for candidates with current or previous service in the public sector (including Teagasc).
- Remuneration may be adjusted from time to time in line with Government Policy.
- Basic Function:** The successful candidate will join the research team of Meat Technology Ireland where they will be involved in the day to day management of the sensory-related activities of the research programme.
- Background:** This post will be carried out in the Food Quality and Sensory Science Department at Teagasc Food Research Centre, Ashtown, Dublin 15.
- The post will be carried out as part of Meat Technology Ireland (MTI), which is an industry-led initiative that will build a strategic research and innovation base in beef and sheepmeat processing in Ireland. Meat Technology Ireland is a dedicated public-private partnership investment in world-class beef and sheep meat processing research and innovation leading to smart, competitive meat processing. MTI will be a one-stop shop for meat processing research and technology, serving as a hub to co-ordinate all beef and sheepmeat processing research needs for the sector.
- We are seeking a competent, driven and enthusiastic person to manage the comprehensive sensory science activities of Meat Technology Ireland. In particular, their role will focus on the recruitment and training aspect of a large external sensory descriptive panel to ISO standards, for the assessment of meat products. In addition to designing and executing descriptive sensory panels, the successful candidate will also lead large consumer trials on location at Ashtown. They will co-ordinate and design sensory trials (including descriptive, affective and discrimination tests) which will take place on an ongoing basis throughout the 3 year duration of the post. They will also manage the extensive collection of data, statistical analysis and interpretation of results and prompt reporting of outcomes to the relevant scientific groups, project leaders and collaborators within the MTI. The candidate will have excellent organizational skills in addition to the personal communication skills necessary to effectively engage with external sensory panelists, MTI partners and stakeholders.
- The Research Officer will, while working in conjunction with other senior research staff, gain insight and experience into a variety of areas including the processes of project and

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budgetary management, the development of active collaboration with relevant national and international research communities; the development of communication and presentation skills, leadership and management skills, and overall career development.

While reporting to the hiring manager, the successful candidate will work directly with the MTI Research & Innovation Project Manager and participating company leads, to ensure research outputs from the project are seamlessly transferred and embedded in the MTC member companies. The candidate will be required to act within the MTI Memorandum of Understanding governing the management of confidential information. The candidate will be required to contribute to identifying opportunities and formulating solutions to facilitate progress for the participant companies and researchers involved.

### Main Duties and Responsibilities:

- Liaise with an external recruitment company to enlist and train a large external sensory descriptive panel for profiling meat products.
- To use their knowledge and experience of sensory science to plan and execute ongoing and extensive sensory trials concomitantly with the fast-paced research programme of Meat Technology Ireland.
- Co-ordinate and manage the smooth operation of descriptive sensory panels, which will be scheduled to take place on an ongoing basis on a number of days every week.
- Monitor panel performance data and provide relevant feedback to ensure a high standard of scientific integrity.
- Collaborate with all partners in MTI in relation to sample collection, storage, planning trials and sample use for the consumer and descriptive sensory panels.
- Clear and effective communication with research team, managers, industry personnel, and other experts in accordance with the MTI protocol e.g. in planning research, planning factory visits etc.
- Co-ordinate and conduct large consumer panels on location at Teagasc Food Research Centre, Ashtown.
- Finalize and validate experimental designs using appropriate sensory software application; e.g. RedJade, Compusense.
- Data collation, statistical analysis and interpretation of results.
- Timely communication of results via stakeholder and partner interaction, report writing and scientific writing.
- Report and discuss progress updates with the MTI Director and participate where required, in the Research Project Management Group.
- To assist Teagasc in meeting the commitments of the Quality Customer Service charter and action plan.
- To actively participate in the annual business planning and Performance Management Development System (PMDS) processes.
- Fully co-operate with the provisions made for ensuring the health, safety and welfare of themselves, fellow staff and non-Teagasc staff and co-operate with management in enabling Teagasc to comply with legal obligations. This includes full compliance with the responsibilities outlined in the Safety Statement.
- Any other duties as may be assigned from time to time.

*\* This job specification is intended as a guide to the general range of duties and is intended to be neither definitive nor restrictive. It will be reviewed from time to time with the post-holder.*

### Person Specification

	Essential	Desirable
<b>Qualifications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candidates must have an honours Level 8 degree in sensory science, food science or a related discipline.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A postgraduate degree and/or research experience in food/sensory/meat science would be a distinct advantage.</li> </ul>

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<b>Skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience of a range of sensory analysis methods such as descriptive, affective and discrimination.</li> <li>• Proven ability to conduct large sensory trials (descriptive and/or consumer).</li> <li>• Excellent and proven project management, organizational, analytical and dissemination skills.</li> <li>• Excellent communication and facilitation skills with an ability to plan and oversee large laboratory-type trials to strict timelines.</li> <li>• Proven ability to manage, analyse and interpret large data sets.</li> <li>• Project management and ability to effectively collaborate with a large and diverse group of team members.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to train sensory panelists according to ISO standards.</li> <li>• Experience of working in industry-led projects involving meat.</li> <li>• Aptitude for multidisciplinary approaches.</li> <li>• Ability to generate new ideas, unique concepts, models and solutions.</li> <li>• Proven record of delivering large and ongoing projects accurately and on time.</li> </ul>
<b>Knowledge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fully familiar with standard sensory testing protocol for managing a trained descriptive sensory panel.</li> <li>• An understanding and practical application of statistical analysis techniques related to sensory research.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of sensory science software and its operation (e.g. RedJade, FIZZ, Compusense etc.)</li> </ul>
<b>Behavioural Competencies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to work as part of a team, including consulting, collaborating and building relationships with key stakeholders.</li> <li>• Strives for high quality of work and demonstrates commitment to the programme.</li> <li>• Ability to communicate effectively to enable knowledge and technology transfer.</li> <li>• Flexible approach to work with an ability to prioritise tasks effectively.</li> <li>• A results-driven individual with a strong focus on goal-setting, performance delivery and accountability.</li> <li>• Excellent interpersonal skills, proficiency in communicating with a wide range of stakeholders.</li> </ul>	
<b>Eligibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For operational reasons, current serving permanent staff members of Teagasc cannot normally be considered for funded contract posts advertised through open public competition.</li> </ul>	
<b>Other</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candidates must satisfy and continue to satisfy during employment with Teagasc, legal requirements to drive unaccompanied on Irish public roads.</li> </ul>	

**Note:** The ‘essential’ qualifications, knowledge, skills and behavioural competencies outlined above are ‘must-have’ which will be used in the selection process.

### How to Apply

An application form for this position can be accessed on the Teagasc Website at [www.teagasc.ie/careers](http://www.teagasc.ie/careers)

Completed application forms should be TYPED and saved in PDF format and submitted by email to [teagascjobs@clark.ie](mailto:teagascjobs@clark.ie) no later than **12 midnight on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2017.**

Please state relevant reference code in all correspondence.

Teagasc is an equal opportunities employer. Canvassing will disqualify.