Job Description

Job title	Research Support – Alternative Proteins Database
Division	Social Sciences
Department	Smith School of Enterprise and Environment (SSEE) School of Geography and the Environment (SoGE)
Location	Remote
Grade and salary	£15 p.h.
Hours	Full time 36.5hrs / week (part time considered)
Contract type	Casual for 12 weeks starting ASAP
Reporting to	Dr Alex Money
Vacancy reference	
Additional information	We welcome applications from a diverse range of candidates - SoGE is committed to equality and values diversity.

The role

As part of Oxford University's Livestock, Environment and People (LEAP) programme, funded by the Wellcome Trust's Our Planet, Our Health initiative, the Smith School for Enterprise and Environment has been developing a database of interactions between major food companies and emerging 'alternative protein' start-ups. The market for plant-based meat and dairy products is growing at pace, and many incumbent players in the food system are launching new products, acquiring plant-based protein businesses, engaging in joint ventures, or pursuing corporate venturing and open innovation activities such as equity investment or accelerator programmes. Our thesis is that these activities could represent an important dynamic in driving a 'protein transition', given that meat and dairy products are responsible for 14.5% of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions.

Our alternative protein database seeks to track these activities with the aim of better understanding the scale, extent and patterning of corporate involvement with alternative proteins. Publicly available data from corporate disclosures, media reports and existing databases will be supplemented by new qualitative data around motivations and strategies to be generated through interviews. The database will provide a unique source of information for industry and academic researchers. We have currently generated a database framework

that has been populated with data from over 100 corporates and 40 start-ups. We now require help from an enthusiastic and motivated research assistant with excellent communication skills to further populate the database through desk-based research and interviews, and prepare it to become publicly accessible. The database is being created in Airtable. This is a casual posting for a fixed period of a maximum of 12 weeks.

Responsibilities

- Alongside colleagues, develop a clear rationale and data-gathering approach for companies and activity types to be included in the full database

- Gather, analyse, and present qualitative and/or quantitative data from a variety of sources in order to populate the database, and identify suitable alternatives where information or research material is restricted

- Generate appropriate protocols to allow the database to be kept up to date after the project period

- Work with colleagues to identify candidates (largely from start-up companies) for semi-structured qualitative interviews, and arrange and carry out interviews efficiently and professionally, following appropriate ethical and data protection protocols.

- Assist in activities to prepare the database for public access, including appropriate web platform, dissemination, communication and outreach activities.

- Contribute to wider project planning, including ideas for new and follow-on research projects

- Contribute to research publications, book chapters and reviews if required, including comprehensive and systematic literature reviews

- Manage own research and administrative activities, within guidelines provided by senior colleagues

- Responsible for the day-to-day administration of database project

- Contribute to discussions and share research findings with colleagues in partner institutions, and research groups

Selection criteria

Candidates will be considered for the post on the basis of the selection criteria outlined below.

Essential

- Hold a first degree and/or masters in a relevant discipline, in addition to some relevant experience

- Genuine interest in this exciting and fast-developing topic area (corporate venturing in alternative proteins) as well as the wider field of food systems and business sustainability

- Ability to work with the Airtable database platform – direct experience is not required, but you will need to demonstrate that you are web-savvy, have existing

competency with e.g. Excel, and can pick up new technology quickly. The interface is intuitive and no programming is required.

- Experience of organising and carrying out research interviews, including appropriate protocols. You may be required to exercise tact or discretion in dealing with potentially confidential matters such as investments.

- Ability to manage own research and administrative activities (remotely at this time)

- Excellent communication skills, including the ability to write text that can be published, and represent the research group at meetings

- Experience of following and adapting methodologies

- Efficient time management to contribute to our assessment of what is possible, and plan and execute the required work within a fairly short window, adapting as needed.

Desirable

- Experience of coding and analysing interviews in software such as NVivo

- Experience as part of a research team

How to Apply

To apply, please submit a CV and a letter in support of your application to hr@ouce.ox.ac.uk. Prospective applicants are also welcome to contact Julian Cottee via email (julian.cottee@ouce.ox.ac.uk) for informal inquiries about the role.

The deadline for applications is Friday 12th March, with interviews taking place the following week. Our intention is to have the successful applicant in post by the end of March 2021.