

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/hr
Hours	Full time 36.5hrs / week (part time considered)
Contract type	Casual for 8 weeks minimum (12 weeks ideal)
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. The database will provide a unique source of information for industry and academic researchers. Our database will cover alternative protein transactions and venturing relationships for 170+ food industry corporates, relating to numerous alternative protein



companies over the last five years. We now require help from an enthusiastic and motivated research assistant with excellent communication skills to further populate the database through desk-based research, in preparation for it to become publicly accessible. The database is being created in Airtable. This is a casual posting for a period of a minimum of eight weeks, with 12 weeks desirable, to start as soon as possible.

Responsibilities

- Alongside colleagues, follow a defined research methodology and data-gathering approach for companies and activity types to be included in the full database
- Gather, 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 limited
- Provide feedback on and work to improve existing research protocols to allow the database to be kept up to date after the project period
- Review data for consistency and accuracy, and ensure overall integrity of the dataset throughout the process, including to prepare the database for public access
- Contribute to wider project planning, including ideas for future research projects
- Manage own research and administrative activities, within guidelines provided by senior colleagues
- Contribute to discussions and share research findings with colleagues

Selection criteria

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

Essential

- Final year undergraduate student or recent graduate with a first degree in a relevant discipline, in addition to some relevant experience of systematically gathering and recording data
- 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.
- Ability to manage own research and administrative activities (remotely at this time)
- Excellent attention to detail, and ability to follow a broadly defined workflow, while adapting to the needs of the research problem
- Excellent communication skills, including the ability to discuss findings and update colleagues on a regular basis
- Efficient time management to execute the required work within the time period of the contract

Desirable

- Experience as part of a research team

How to Apply

To apply, please submit a CV and a brief letter in support of your application to alt.proteins@smithschool.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 Thursday 1st July, with starting date as soon as possible thereafter.