

THE ORGANIC RESEARCH CENTRE

JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE: RESEARCH COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER (G6)

12 month fixed-term position with possibility of extension

RESPONSIBLE TO: KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AND POLICY MANAGER

BACKGROUND

The Organic Research Centre was founded 40 years ago and from the outset has been the only UK organisation focussed on research into organic farming systems. ORC works in partnership with organisations across the UK and Europe to support transition to organic and agroecological farming and food systems. Much of our work is on commercial farms across the country, co-designing with farmers and other stakeholders research aimed at solutions to economic, environmental and ethical challenges. The values of our research are participation, integration (of disciplines) and diversity – from genes to ecosystems.

JOB ROLE

We are seeking an enthusiastic and dedicated new team member to help translate the results of our research projects into clear guidance and decision support for farmers and other stakeholders in the food and farming sector. The post-holder will have a good understanding of this sector and the information needs of practitioners seeking to transition to or further develop organic or other agroecological practice in their farms and food businesses. They will also be able to draw from both technical and creative expertise to develop visual content and interactive apps and other tools that allow people to easily access and understand the information that is relevant to their interests. This will include developing infographics, web pages, decision support tools, and user interfaces for models. The post-holder will play a vital role in leveraging our ongoing research project portfolio to enhance the uptake of more sustainable practices in food production.

The main job responsibilities will be to:

1. Design and develop digital/online tools and information products based on research project findings, that are both attractive and easy to navigate and understand, potentially including web pages, graphical user interfaces for models, other apps and interactive decision support tools, according to expertise.
2. Turn research data and summary findings into infographics that can be used as part of online content or technical reports. Provide other visual content for technical reports, journal articles, scientific papers and powerpoint presentations.
3. Assist with ongoing knowledge exchange activities including practical support to on-farm events, workshops and conferences. This may include assisting in video and audio production (e.g. podcast, farmer interview, webinar recording) including on-site filming and editing.
4. Assist in other tasks such as developing automated means to gather online data and information (“data scraping”) that helps tailor our tools and other outputs to the exact needs of the user, and helping to manage ORC Github and Zenodo accounts for purposes of open-source software development and open access to datasets.

5. As required, support the efficient running of the research and knowledge exchange team in other ways, including responsibilities not listed above that may be allocated in your annual work plan.
6. Undertake training to be able to continue meeting the requirements of this role and develop your potential as a member of ORC staff.
7. Keep abreast of latest advances in relevant areas of science and its communication and translation.
8. Participate in the Staff, Research and other team meetings as appropriate.

Personal Specification of Research Communicator

| Attribute | Essential | Desirable |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| Qualifications | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BSc (at least 2.1) in either an Agriculture related or computer science/graphic design/digital communications related discipline | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postgraduate qualifications in research communication or other relevant discipline |
| Experience | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website management/content creation Development of online tools and apps Design of information products | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Filming and film editing, podcast creation Exposure to organic or agroecological farming practice and/or research Professional interaction with biological modellers or data scientists Interaction with farmers, e.g. in focus groups |
| Skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Web content management (e.g. WordPress) Graphical User Interface (GUI) and apps development Graphic design software Data literate and numerate Broad understanding of farm and food systems Good organisational skills and attention to detail Good communication skills both written and oral, in a variety of styles | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience of Zenodo, Githubs and FAIR principles for development of open-source software Understanding and familiarity with data analysis and web tools/languages, e.g. R, SQL, Python, Javascript, HTML Database management Project management |
| Personal qualities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-motivated Independent and able to work alone and as part of a team Enthusiastic and flexible Able to contribute to the wider activities undertaken by ORC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interest in organic farming, food systems, agroecology and the environment Interest in working with organic farmers and business actors |
| General ability | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Willingness and ability to travel where and when needed in the UK | |
| Additional requirements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to work at home Clean full driving licence Willingness to work additional hours at peak times | |

| ACTIVITIES | GENERIC ROLE REQUIREMENTS |
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| 2 Teamwork and motivation | <p>Work with colleagues on joint projects, as required</p> <p>Collaborate with colleagues on areas of shared research and knowledge transfer interest</p> <p>Attend and contribute to relevant meetings</p> |
| 3 Liaison and networking | <p>Liaise with colleagues, students/interns, co-operating producers/research partners and others</p> <p>Build internal contacts and participate in internal networks for the exchange of information and to form relationships for future collaboration</p> <p>Build external contacts and join external networks to share information and identify potential sources of funds</p> |
| 4 Service delivery | <p>Contribute to the production of research outputs aimed at meeting the funders' requirements</p> |
| 5 Decision making | <p>Make decisions on matters affecting own projects</p> <p>Contribute to collaborative decision making with colleagues in areas of research and KE</p> |
| 6 Planning and organising resources | <p>Manage own research and administrative activities, with guidance if required</p> <p>Use research resources, laboratories and workshops as appropriate</p> <p>Plan and manage own research activity in collaboration with others</p> |
| 7 Initiative and problem solving | <p>Deal with standard problems and help colleagues resolve their concerns about progress in research and KE</p> <p>Resolve problems of meeting project objectives and deadlines</p> <p>Develop ideas for generating income</p> <p>Develop ideas for application of research outcomes</p> |
| 8 Analysis and research | <p>Develop objectives and proposals for own or joint projects</p> <p>Conduct individual and collaborative projects</p> <p>Use initiative and creativity to identify areas of future work</p> |
| 9 Sensory and physical demands | <p>Sensory and physical demands will vary from relatively light to a high level depending on the discipline and the type of work</p> <p>Carry out tasks that require the learning of certain skills</p> |
| 10 Work environment | <p>Balance with help the competing pressures of project and administrative demands and deadlines</p> <p>Is required to be aware of the risks in the work environment and their potential impact on their own work and that of others</p> |

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| 11 Pastoral care and welfare | Show consideration to others |
| 12 Team development | Carry out induction and provide support to new members of the team |
| 13 Knowledge transfer/ learning support | <p>Contribute to the organisation and content of knowledge transfer events/ short courses relevant to areas of activity and specialist knowledge</p> <p>Be involved in the assessment of student/intern knowledge and supervision of projects</p> <p>Assist in the development of student/intern skills</p> |
| 14 Knowledge and experience | <p>Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism</p> <p>Engage in continuous professional development</p> <p>Understand equal opportunity issues as they may impact on areas of project work</p> |