

The Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera) Job Description

Introduction

The Food and Environment Research Agency's over arching purpose is to support and develop a sustainable food chain, a healthy natural environment, and to protect the global community from biological and chemical risks. Our role within that is to provide robust evidence, rigorous analysis and professional advice to Government, international organisations and the private sector.

Post details

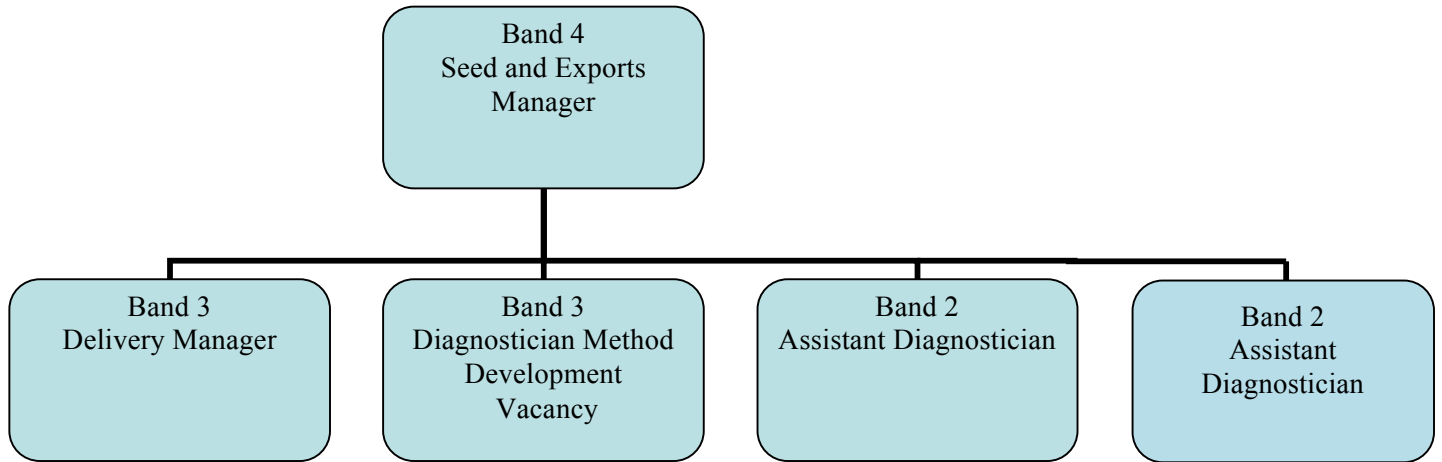
Job title:	Seeds Diagnostician (Method Development)		
CSP ref:	CSP3955	Closing date:	17 February 2014
Band:	3	Location:	Sand Hutton, York
Status:	Fixed Term Appointment (2 Years)		

This vacancy is within the Plant Protection Programme

The Plant Protection Programme (PPP) delivers plant health testing and related research to UK government, levy boards, overseas governments and commercial clients. The work of PPP includes pathogen testing, diagnostic development, and research in applied pathology and the management of invertebrate pests.

The seeds team, within the PPP Pest and Disease ID team, delivers a high-quality pest and disease diagnostic service to Defra plant health division as well as UK and overseas government, commercial clients and the International Seed Testing Association. The team utilises a range of both cutting edge and traditional techniques to provide comprehensive diagnostic service covering the spectrum of agricultural and horticultural plant species.

Organisation Chart



Purpose of job

The role of 'Seed Analyst (Method development)' will be to develop and validate methods to test seed for fungal diseases to meet third country plant health regulations. The post holder will develop and validate both molecular and cultural methods. The post holder will facilitate in transferring these methods to the Seeds Team.

The post holder will:

- Take a lead role in the implementation of new diagnostic tests for seeds and products.
- Transfer existing relevant lab tests to molecular format e.g. PCR, using standard validation and verification processes.
- Produce protocols for the new methods.
- Support validation of novel molecular diagnostic methods based on real-time PCR and deliver them as new commercial and statutory services (validation to ISO17025 where appropriate).
- Provide diagnostic support to seeds and products lab.
- Support the drafting of scientific papers and research reports.
- Assist in the general day-to-day running of the seeds laboratory including maintenance of ISTA (International Seed Testing Association) accredited procedures.

Benefits of working at The Food and Environment Research Agency

The Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera) offers an attractive benefits and salary package. This includes a minimum of 25 days leave plus 8 bank holidays plus an additional day off for the Queen's Birthday, generous maternity and paternity entitlements, flexible working hours and a pension package.

Starting salaries depend on the skills, experience and qualifications that you bring to the post.

The following are some of the benefits that our employees enjoy:

- Competitive salaries.
- Pension: A choice of a Civil Service defined benefit scheme or stakeholder defined contribution arrangement.
- 25 days annual leave, rising to 30 days with five years service. A further eight days of Bank Holidays and an additional day off for the Queen's Birthday.
- Generous maternity and paternity leave
- Salary sacrifice: childcare vouchers and cycle to work scheme.
- On-site nursery (*Sand Hutton, York site only*).
- Learning and development opportunities.
- Flexible working practices.
- Flexible working patterns: Fera encourages flexible working patterns, such as part time, job share, term time working and working from home where appropriate.
- Subsidised staff restaurant: There is a subsidised staff restaurant serving high quality breakfast, snacks and lunches on the Sand Hutton site.
- Welfare and Health & Wellbeing service.
- Subsidised Sports and Social Club, including on site gym (*Sand Hutton, York site only*).
- An extensive Information Centre (*Sand Hutton, York site only*).

For more detailed information on the Fera benefits package, please see information pack provided or visit our website.