



Bacteriology - Assistant Scientist (Molecular focus)

Join us as an Assistant Scientist in the Bacteriology diagnostic team and make an invaluable contribution to our Food Safety & Biosecurity!

At Fera, we're making the world a better, healthier, and safer place. We're a joint venture partnership between Bridgepoint and Defra and we're working proactively to protect the world we live in and the food we eat. Our teams are investigating plant and bee health, crop protection and sustainable agriculture. Join us and discover better as you deliver world-class science for the future.

The Bacteriology diagnostic team are recruiting a new member of staff to join them and assist in delivery of plant bacteriology diagnostics, focusing on the provision of molecular diagnostics, within the Plant Protection Programme. The postholder will work closely with other molecular focused staff and diagnosticians to support and provide frontline diagnostics through direct delivery and assistance in method development & validation. In addition to molecular delivery, this role will also assist with bacteriology diagnostic work through sample preparation, testing and result reporting. Testing of samples utilises a range of techniques including traditional methods such as isolation and host pathogenicity tests alongside the more modern identification techniques.

Full training will be provided.

Role:	Bacteriology - Assistant Scientist
Salary:	£23,920
Location:	York BioTech Campus – YO41 1LZ
Working pattern:	37.5 hours Monday – Friday (Flexi time policy in place)
Start date:	ASAP depending on recruitment and onboarding timelines.

What you'll be doing:

- Assisting in the provision of molecular diagnostic testing for the detection and identification of plant pathogenic bacteria on statutory and commercial provided samples (including DNA extractions, real-time PCR, conventional PCR and partial gene sequencing).
- Assisting in all aspects of the general day-to-day running of utilised Bacteriology laboratories and Molecular Technology Unit facilities, to include cleaning and equipment maintenance.
- Assisting in stock control of reagents, control materials and consumables.
- Assisting Diagnosticians in the identification of plant pathogenic bacteria on symptomatic samples.
- Assisting with survey work to monitor for the presence of specified bacterial plant pathogens, key elements would include:
 - Processing of latent surveillance samples prior to molecular screening e. g. *Xylella fastidiosa*, and processing of other latent samples to include screening river water for *Ralstonia* species, plant samples for *Erwinia amylovora* and seed samples for given pathogens.
 - Booking in, coring & processing of Ring rot & Brown rot potato survey samples
- Assisting with immunofluorescence microscopy, Fatty Acid Profiling and MALDI ToF work as required.
- Carrying out work in accordance with ISO17025 and ISO9001 quality accreditation standards.
- Sample result entry through electronic databases.
- Providing support for other work in the Plant Programme and potentially other areas of Fera as required.



What we're looking for:

- Candidates should have 5 GCSEs at Grade C or above (including English and Maths or Science) or equivalent experience.
- The post holder will be expected to have previous experience of working in a laboratory environment, and following protocols or Standard Operating Procedures.
- They will also be expected to be self-motivated, provide good customer service and be able to prioritise their work in a busy environment. We will be particularly interested in candidates who have proven aseptic technique.
- We are looking for someone with excellent team working skills, who takes responsibility for the quality of their work and asks questions when unclear. Our ideal candidate will have excellent written and verbal communication, good manual dexterity and good IT skills (particularly using Microsoft applications including Outlook, Excel & Word). They will be able to work in an organised manner to deliver work as efficiently as possible to meet deadlines whilst maintaining high standards and help those around them to do likewise. They will also need to be able to lift heavy samples of up to 13 kg.
- Additional skills that will be desirable are practical laboratory experience of working with microorganisms, plant diseases or quarantine pathogens, and an interest in plants and plant diseases. Experience of working to accredited standards such as ISO 17025 and ISO 9001 would also be beneficial.

What's in it for you?

- 23 days' holiday (rising to 27) with the opportunity to buy extra leave.
- Flexible working hours, on-site gym, restaurant, and free parking
- The opportunity to take a paid day out of the office, volunteering for our charity partners or a cause of your choice.
- Company matched pension, life assurance, a cycle2work scheme, 15 weeks' fully paid maternity, adoption and shared parental leave, paternity pay of two weeks...and plenty more.
- Voluntary benefits designed to suit your lifestyle – from discounts on retail and socialising, to health & wellbeing, travel, and technology.
- Access to our Employee Network Groups, which represent every strand of diversity and allow colleagues to connect and learn from each other on an open, inclusive platform.

What we hope you'll do next:

Choose 'Apply now' to fill out our short application, so that we can find out more about you. If you have any questions you'd like to ask before applying, you can contact recruitment@fera.co.uk

We're an equal opportunity employer, which means we recruit and develop people based on their merit and passion. We're committed to providing an inclusive, barrier-free recruitment process and working environment for everyone. If you need the job description or application form in an alternative format or if you'd like to discuss other changes or support you might need going forward, please email recruitment@fera.co.uk and we'll get back to you.