

Position / Job Title:	Research Assistant (RED ID 14891)
Ref:	774
Location/Building:	Poole House - Talbot Campus
Faculty/Professional Service:	Faculty of Science and Technology
Group/Section:	Psychology
Duration if Temporary:	Fixed Term Until 31/12/2026
Normal Hours per Week:	16-37 hours
(Some flexibility will be required in order to ensure that key time scales and deadlines are met).	
Grade:	4
Accountable to:	Katherine Appleton

Job Purpose

To contribute to the project: Systematic Review: Sweet taste liking and adiposity as directed by the Principal Investigator and associated PDRA staff. The project will undertake a systematic review of the published literature, to identify and collate all relevant published articles, to result in a published journal article. The role of the Research Assistant is to contribute to the project delivery by conducting all aspects of the research in a timely manner.

Main Responsibilities

1. Deliver research objectives of proposed work within the timeframes of the project and ensuring the achievement of project outcomes.
2. Conduct research using standard systematic review processes.
3. Ensure maintenance of data and records in accordance with standard systematic review processes.
4. Undertake training as required by the University and as befits your role for Institutional safety and for staff development

Organisation Chart

The PI – Katherine Appleton will have overall oversight of the project.
A PDRA will report to the PI and manage all day-to-day activities for successful completion of the project.
Other team members, including all RAs will report to the PI and undertake research work as requested by the PI and the PDRA.

Dimensions

The project is funded by the Union of European Beverages Association to investigate the association between liking for sweet taste and adiposity. To investigate this association, we will undertake a systematic review, where we will systematically search the published literature to identify and summarise all published articles investigating sweet taste liking and adiposity.

Contacts:

Internal: Research project team, technical and support staff within the university

External: None

Information Governance Responsibilities

Data User

- i. Comply with the associated data protection, information security, information management and information technology regulations, policies, processes and procedures.

Safeguarding and Regulated Activity

If the role involves engaging in regulated activity relevant to vulnerable groups including children and disabled adults, it is an [offence to apply for](#) and perform the role, if a person is barred from engaging in regulated activity. Further information is available in BU's [Safeguarding Policy](#) and Suitability Statement on the Recruitment and Employment of Ex-offenders.

Additional Information

The purpose of the job description is to indicate the general level of responsibility and location of the position. The duties may vary from time to time without changing their general character or level of responsibility.

BU is an equal opportunities employer which values a diverse workforce. The post holder must at all times carry out their responsibilities with due regard to the University's Dignity, Diversity and Equality Policy Statement.

Our highly skilled and creative workforce is comprised of individuals drawn from a broad cross section of the globe, and who reflect a variety of backgrounds, talents, perspectives and experiences to build our global learning community. Through fused activity, the post holder must have an understanding of and commitment to promoting a global outlook.

All employees have an obligation to be aware of the University's Sustainability Policy, Climate and Ecological Crisis Action Plan, Travel Plan and associated documents, and to ensure that they carry out their day-to-day activities in an environmentally responsible manner and inspire students to do the same.

June 2026



Person Specification

Position / Job Title: Research Assistant	Faculty / Service: Faculty of Media, science & Technology
Position No:	Date: June 2026
SELECTION CRITERIA	
	Essential / Desirable
Expertise	
Expertise in Eating Behaviour or Nutrition – with a BSc qualification	E
Knowledge in Low-calorie sweeteners	E
Experience of using systematic review techniques	D
Experience of previous randomized controlled trial methodology	D
Experience of publishing research outputs, including systematic reviews	D
Experience of presenting research within and beyond academia	D
Skills	
Ability to apply standard systematic review techniques and processes	D
Excellent communication skills, both orally and in writing, and the ability to communicate research findings to different audiences.	E
Strong organisational skills	E
Strong writing abilities	D
Effective team working skills, including those required to effectively manage a team.	E
Ability to reason accurately and quickly and handle complex situations.	D
Attributes	
Analytical	E
Collegiate	E
Commitment to high quality research	E
Initiative	E
High level of attention to detail	E
Motivated to succeed	E