

General Information

Title: Using social science approaches to reduce ammonia emissions from farming

Non-Academic partner: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

Role/Sector: Social science role in Defra's 'Air Quality and Industrial Emissions' team.

Location: Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR (though working from another location on a regular basis is feasible).

Duration: 4-5 months

Start date: Preferably Autumn 2017 but negotiable

Full or Part time: Preferably full time but with some flexibility

Who are you going to work with

The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) is responsible for safeguarding the natural environment, supporting a world-leading food and farming industry, and sustaining a rural economy. It plays a major role in people's day-to-day life, from the food we eat, and the air we breathe, to the water we drink. Its purpose is to unleash the economic potential of food and farming, nature and the countryside, champion the environment and provide security against floods, animal and plant diseases and other hazards. Defra's priorities are:

- a cleaner, healthier environment, benefiting people and the economy
- a world-leading food and farming industry
- a thriving rural economy, contributing to national prosperity and wellbeing
- a nation better-protected against floods, animal and plant diseases and other hazards, with strong response and recovery capabilities
- an organisation continually striving to be the best, focussed on outcomes and constantly challenging itself

How do you expect to spend your day

Ammonia emissions from farming are a major part of the air quality challenge that we face. Reducing them relies on a shared understanding of how this can be achieved, the technological advances to make it happen and, crucially, farmers' willingness and ability to change their farming practices. Your role will be to build the team's understanding of farmers' perspectives on ammonia: their perception of the problem, the language they use to describe it, their views of the mechanisms available to them to reduce their own emissions; why they do or do not apply for the financial support available; and their experience of implementing new farming practices. You will work with other teams within the Defra group to better understand the existing evidence base around farmer behaviours, attitudes to ammonia and the success of grant schemes and other measures to promote good practice for reducing emissions. You will draw on the experience of farm advisors who have first-hand experience of talking to farmers about reducing pollution from farming and you will also conduct small-scale primary research with farmers themselves.

Specific objectives include:

- Forging links with teams across the department (e.g. water; food & farming) to gather the relevant evidence they have available.
- Organising and conducting discussions with colleagues in the wider Defra group (e.g. catchment sensitive farming advisors; administrators of the grant schemes) to gather first-hand accounts of farmers' views of ammonia, decisions on farming methods, the success of grant schemes, etc...
- Using Defra's contacts in farming bodies (e.g. the NFU) to secure a small number of interviews with farmers themselves on their: understanding of the issues, current good practice,

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views on the measures we would like to encourage, views and experiences of the grant schemes available; and effective approaches to communicating with them.

- Working independently to conduct primary and secondary analysis of the evidence gathered.
- Bringing findings together in a format which will bring ongoing value to colleagues in AQIE and across Defra group.

The ideal intern's personality and qualifications

We are looking for an individual with first-hand experience of both primary and secondary research methods who is able to work independently to deliver this piece of work. They will need to work with little supervision and at pace. They will need to feel comfortable engaging with a wide variety of stakeholders and engender trust and collaboration. They will also need to work collaboratively with colleagues in AQIE to ensure that the final product meets their needs. They should be able to communicate confidently with colleagues and stakeholders at all levels.

Defra is committed to having a diverse workforce that brings in the widest range of talent, ideas and approaches (Defra group equality, diversity and inclusion strategy 2017 to 2020:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/defra-group-equality-diversity-and-inclusion-strategy-2017-to-2020.)

Essential skills:

- A strong grasp of social science methods
- Experience of having undertaken evidence reviews and primary qualitative research
- The ability to work independently
- The ability to deliver under time pressure
- Strong communication skills

Desirable skills:

- o Project management skills
- o An interest in farming
- o A basic understanding of air quality

What are the benefits of Interning at this project

This role offers a unique opportunity to work at the heart of the Civil Service, expand your professional experience, grow your skills and enhance your employability. You'll be able to make a strong personal impact, applying your academic knowledge to resolve real-world issues.

Air quality (AQ) is a hot topic. To date attention has focussed on transport but in 2018 Defra will publish its Clean Air Strategy. This will map out the UK's future direction and how it will meet challenging international commitments to reduce emissions of five major pollutants by 2020/2030. It will be a major programme of Government policy making, bringing in evidence from the natural, economic and social sciences and drawing in a large number of external stakeholders to support decisions on the future of AQ policy.

You have a unique opportunity to witness its development and influence longer-term policy on ammonia and communications with farmers.

Apply for this role

If you are interested in applying for this opportunity, please email the completed [application form](#) and a CV to esrcdtc@admin.cam.ac.uk.

Please note that all applications must be approved by the applicant's PhD supervisor. The application deadline is **September 20 2017**. Results will be announced early October 2017.