

Job Title: Accelerated Knowledge Transfer (AKT) associate in Veterinary Translational Research

Job Description & Specification

JOB DETAILS

Department:	Animal Health, Behaviour and Welfare (AHBW)	Salary:	Up to £42,250 (pro rata for duration of fixed term contract) Subject to experience
Hours of Work	Full Time (37 hours per week) Flexibility to work weekends may be required	Contract Type:	Fixed Term (3 months) Start Date – 9th November 2026
Responsible To:	Dr Tharangani Herath, Senior Lecturer, Harper Adams University Greg McGarrell, Managing Director, Nupsala Group Ltd		
Work Location:	Harper Adams University		
Holiday Allowance:	23 days per annum (pro rata for duration of fixed term contract)		

JOB PURPOSE

Harper Adams University and Nupsala Ltd are seeking to appoint a highly motivated research scientist to deliver an Accelerated Knowledge Transfer (AKT) project focused on the development and evaluation novel diagnostic approaches for veterinary osteoarthritis.

This project will establish the feasibility of biomarker-based diagnostic testing for osteoarthritis, enabling Nupsala to advance the development of innovative veterinary diagnostic solutions, improve the early detection and monitoring of joint disease and strengthen its capability to translate emerging biomarker technologies into clinical applications.

As the AKT Associate, you will play a key role in delivering this collaborative project, applying your scientific expertise to develop and evaluate novel diagnostic approaches for osteoarthritis. Working closely with both academic and industrial partners, you will gain valuable experience in translational research, commercial innovation and technology development.

MAIN ACTIVITIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Main Activities

- Select and optimise biomarker assay protocols.
- Develop standard operating procedures and supporting documentation.
- Conduct laboratory assays and evaluate assay sensitivity and reliability.
- Prepare technical reports and present project findings.
- Collaborate with academic and industry teams to facilitate knowledge transfer.
- Contribute to commercial assessment and future technology development plans.

Responsibilities

- **Teamwork and Collaboration:** Work effectively with academic and industry partners to achieve project objectives.
- **Initiative and Problem-Solving:** Demonstrate initiative and independent problem-solving in project delivery.
- **Communication and Reporting:** Prepare project reports, technical documentation and presentations in timely manner.
- **Compliance and Professional Conduct:** Comply with all University, company and project policies and procedures.
- **Knowledge Transfer:** Support knowledge exchange between Harper Adams University and Nupsala Ltd, embedding new expertise and capabilities within both organisations.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications - • MRes, MSc by Research, or equivalent postgraduate qualification with experience in laboratory-based research in a relevant biological or veterinary science discipline • PhD (completed or Near completion) experience in laboratory-based research in a relevant biological or veterinary science discipline	√	√
Experience • Practical experience in veterinary laboratory diagnostics and biomarker analysis. • Experience working with biological fluids and immunological analytical techniques. • The ability to design, execute and interpret experimental studies independently. • Work effectively with academic and industry partners to	√ √ √	

achieve project objectives. • Experience of delivering research projects within multidisciplinary teams • Understanding of research translation and knowledge exchange activities.	✓ ✓	✓
Knowledge/Skills • Understanding of the pathogenesis, diagnosis and progression of osteoarthritis. • Strong analytical, investigative and research skills • Ability to evaluate complex information and translate findings into practical outcomes. • Excellent problem-solving skills, with the ability to identify challenges, develop solutions and make sound decisions. • Comply with all University, company and project policies and procedures. • Knowledge of biomarker discovery, evaluation and validation.	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓	✓
Personal Qualities • Self-initiative and independent problem-solving in project delivery. • Excellent organisational and time-management skills. • Ability to work independently and as part of a team. • Adaptable and willing to learn new skills. • Interest in innovation and research translation.	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓	✓

Please apply online via the Harper Adams e-Recruitment programme at <http://jobs.harper-adams.ac.uk> submitting your CV and a personal statement outlining your suitability for the role. Your personal statement should clearly demonstrate how your skills, experience, and achievements meet the requirements outlined in the person specification. Applications without a personal statement may not be considered. **Applications should be received by no later than midday on Thursday 22 October 2026**

Please note interviews will be held on 30th October 2026 and successful candidates will need to be available to take up post by Monday 9th November.

If you have any queries or questions or to arrange a telephone based informal discussion, please contact Tharangani Herath via e-mail therath@harper-adams.ac.uk

Should you require any adjustments to complete your application for this role then please contact vacancies@harper-adams.ac.uk

Unfortunately, this role is not eligible for visa sponsorship in line with Home Office requirements. Candidates will therefore be unable to secure a Skilled Worker visa for this role and will require an alternative source of right to work in the UK.