



PAID SUMMER STUDENTSHIP

Open to Applications

Research title: Which species should be used in multispecies leys for livestock production?

Location: Centre for Dairy Research (CEDAR), University of Reading, Arborfield

Duration: A total of 8 weeks to take place between June and the end of September (weeks do not have to be consecutive).

Payment: £200 per week

Supervisors: Dr. Anna Thomson and Prof. Chris Reynolds

About CEDAR

The Centre for Dairy Research is the University of Reading's state of the art facility for applied and strategic research concerning milk composition, dairy cow nutrition and the environmental impacts of meat and milk production. The proposed project will take place on an existing multi-site experimental platform that has been established as part of a separate project: 'The DiverseForages Project' www.reading.ac.uk/diverseforages.

Studentship Description

This opportunity would suit a second year undergraduate student looking to gain experience of an agricultural research environment over the summer. The 8-week studentship will involve working at the Centre for Dairy Research alongside a team of experienced technicians and academic staff. During their placement the successful candidate will be expected to conduct their own research project to determine the effect of botanical composition on the digestibility and nutritive value of multi-species leys (herbal leys) for livestock production – the data gathered may be used to form the basis of a dissertation. This will involve gathering samples from a multi-site experimental platform using both small-scale agronomy plots and a grazing beef animal study, and performing laboratory analyses. Training will be given in all aspects of the research work. The outcome of the project may allow for the student to present results at a future conference or form part of a scientific publication. The ideal candidate would have an interest in livestock or forage science, and may be looking to pursue a career in agricultural research. Prior experience of working with livestock would also be advantageous but not essential. The student will be expected to write a short report at the end of the placement which will be sent to the funders of this opportunity: The Stapledon Memorial Trust. Find out more about the Trust at <http://www.stapledontrust.org.uk/>

Candidates will need to arrange their own accommodation and transport. Free on-site housing may be available by request for all or part of the studentship subject to availability.

How to apply

To apply please send a covering letter and your CV to a.l.thomson@reading.ac.uk

Applications will close at **5pm on Friday 8th June 2018**.

