



**Newcastle University  
School of Agriculture, Food & Rural Development**

**PhD position in Animal / Veterinary Science**

An exciting 3 year PhD position is available from 1 September 2010 on the topical subject of “**Light Pig Syndrome: what causes it and how it can be overcome?**” The studentship is sponsored by the British Pig Executive (BPEX) and will pay a maintenance grant of £13,000 and full fees for UK/EU based students.

*The overall aim of the studentship is to identify, through an epidemiological approach, the reasons that contribute to delays in the growth of individual pigs (light pigs) and develop novel strategies that would enable such pigs to decrease any deficit in their growth.* It is a widespread problem in pig units that a percentage of pigs fail to thrive, and grow markedly more slowly than their counterparts in the same pen, although showing no overt clinical disease symptoms. There are several reasons that might lead to this, including light weight at birth or at weaning, a prolonged post weaning check, previous clinical disease or chronic subclinical disease. These differences in growth give rise to undesirable within-pen variability, which hinders optimal diet matching and leads to inefficient pen utilisation or marketing. The purpose of this project is therefore to understand the mechanisms limiting the growth of these animals and identify in which situations cost effective remedial strategies might be employed to decrease any deficit in their growth.

The successful candidate will have a good first degree (first or upper second class) in **Animal or Veterinary Science, Biology or other relevant subject**. He/she should have or be willing to develop quantitative skills, be enthusiastic and motivated by scientific problems that lead to applied solutions for the pig industry.

The student will be based at the School of Agriculture, Food & Rural Development at Newcastle University ([www.ncl.ac.uk/afrd](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/afrd)). The Integrative Animal Systems Group within the School is the UK leading centre for research in pigs. Thus the student will join an extremely active team of scientists and postgraduate students that address scientific problems relevant to the Pig Industry. He/she will also work closely with the BPEX Knowledge Transfer team to gain an understanding of the context in which his/her project takes place, and disseminate relevant results to the pig industry. This project will link to a larger industry initiative on the use of IT to monitor and improve pig performance and involve interaction with a range of commercial partners.

Informal enquiries about the post can be made to either Professor Ilias Kyriazakis [Email: [ilias.kyriazakis@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:ilias.kyriazakis@newcastle.ac.uk)] or Professor Sandra Edwards [Email: [Sandra.edwards@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:Sandra.edwards@newcastle.ac.uk)].

To apply, please send an application letter and CV by 18 June to:

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