

Tenure Track Assistant Professor in Food Microbiology and Technology at Aarhus University, Denmark

The Department of Food Science (FOOD), Aarhus University, Denmark, invites applications at the Tenure Track Assistant Professor level. We are looking for a successful candidate with a strong research profile within food microbiology and technology, who would like to work with a highly engaged and motivated staff in an innovative and dynamic working environment. New research initiatives in Food Microbiology and Technology will complement ongoing activities of the department within food technology, food biotechnology and food chemistry. The position is available from October 1, 2026, or as soon as possible thereafter.

The position

The AU-FOOD works on food science focusing on quality parameters and impact of production, processing and storage of relevance for the food industry and consumers. The department aims to contribute to food security and sustainability integrating novel raw materials and establishing new processes. While developments in this area are of high relevance, there are ongoing issues with process and product safety. To strengthen the translation of results obtained at lab conditions to food systems, we are specifically interested in a candidate, who has expertise in the cross-field between food microbiology and technology and strives to move safe food development forward.

The position takes a food chain perspective, addressing contamination, spoilage, and safety risks from farm level through food processing and distribution to the final food product. A particular emphasis is placed on understanding spore-forming microorganisms. This includes heat-resistant bacterial and fungal spores, and investigations on how they enter, survive, and spread across the supply chain. With collaborators at the departments, the candidate will develop effective technological strategies as robust, evidence-based solutions to ensure food quality and safety throughout the supply chain. In agreement with current research themes at the departments, the position will involve plant-based and hybrid foods. There is a significant research need in this area, as production, processing and distribution of plant-based and hybrid foods is evolving. Development of this research area is a focal point, and the candidate's scientific competences are expected to make a key contribution to further strengthening the research and teaching activities within the two departments. The position is aligned to the Science Team of Food Technology and collaborations with science teams of FOOD and cross departmental activities at AU are emphasized.

You are expected to have research experience within three or more of the following areas:

- Modelling and analysis of microbial growth and prediction in food relevant environments and storage conditions
- Hands on experience with basic and advanced analytical techniques of microbial growth, identification and cultivation that relate to the evaluation of food quality and shelf-life
- Molecular biology techniques and next-generation sequencing technologies is an asset
- Up- and downstream processes applied in the food industry
- Food processing, fermentation, food composition and chemistry in complex food matrices

Collaboration and exchange of knowledge with industry and advisory services are seen as part of the position. The successful candidate must also take part in teaching and supervision of students at BSc and MSc level.

Qualifications

- PhD degree in food science or food technology and minimum of 2-3 years of relevant postdoc experience
- A proven publication record in international peer-reviewed journals (minimum 15

Application Deadline:
10 June 2026

Institute/Faculty:
Department of Food Science

Faculty:
Faculty of Technical Sciences

Academic contact person:
Marianne Hammershøj
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Vacant positions:
1

Hours per week:
37

Expected date of accession:
01/10/2026

publications)

- Teaching experience at BSc and MSc level
- Experience in supervision of undergraduate and/or graduate students
- Experience in international research collaboration and networking
- Documented ability to attract or contribute to attracting research funding
- Write and speak English fluently

The Department of Food Science

The Department of Food Science (FOOD) is part of the Faculty of Technology, Aarhus University and includes research across the food value chain within the areas of Plant Production Systems, Biofunctional Food, Food Chemistry, Food Technology, and Food Perception and Sensory Science. The Department currently employs approx. 65 full time scientific staff and 55 PhD students and Postdocs, with approx. 30 visiting staff and students contributing to an international research environment where English is the preferred language in the laboratory, at meetings and at seminars.

The Department works in teams and therefore self-leadership, clear and open communication, success in mentoring, supervising and teaching are important qualities being successful in the Department. In addition, the Department has a strong culture that is based on openness, equality, consultation and inclusion, and contributing to the Department strategy and working environment is viewed as important.

The Department is responsible for a Master's programme in Molecular Nutrition and Food Technology, taught at AU, Denmark, and a Master's programme in Food and Health at the Sino-Danish Center in Beijing, China. In addition, Department staff contribute to several other key interdisciplinary educations, including Bachelor's and Master's programmes in Plant and Food, and a Bachelor of Engineering in Food Technology, Aarhus University. Staff also teach on a number of other educations offered at other Universities in Denmark and China.

The Department also conducts research-based advice of the Danish Government in the area of food quality.

Please refer to <http://food.au.dk/en/> for further information about The Department of Food Science and to <http://scitech.au.dk/en/> and <http://www.au.dk/en/> for information on Technology and Aarhus University, respectively.

Place of Work and area of Employment

The place of work is Department of Food Science, Aarhus University, Agro Food Park 48, 8200 Aarhus N, Denmark.

For further information contact Professor and Science Team Leader Marianne Hammershøj, phone: +45 22169259, e-mail: marianne.hammershoj@food.au.dk

Living in Aarhus / Denmark

Please visit the International Centre website (<https://internationalstaff.au.dk/about>) for information about arriving, working and living in Denmark.

Technical Sciences Tenure Track

Aarhus University offers talented scientists from around the world attractive career perspectives via the Technical Sciences Tenure Track Programme. Highly qualified candidates are appointed as Assistant Professors for a period of six years with the prospect of performance-based advancement to a tenured Associate Professorship. The aim of the Technical Sciences Tenure Track Programme is to:

- attract outstanding talented individuals that are competitive at an international level
- to promote the early development of independent research success early in the career of scientists
- to create transparency in the academic career path

As part of the tenure track position, the candidate is offered:

- access to research infrastructure
- capability development, including postgraduate teacher training
- a mentoring programme
- support to develop scientific networks and to secure interdisciplinary research at the highest level

As part of the Aarhus University Tenure Track Programme, the University carries out a mid-way evaluation to review the progress of the tenure track candidate after three years, according to the same criteria used in the final tenure review. The final tenure review is conducted after five and a half years. If the review is positive, the candidate will be offered a tenured position as Associate Professor at Aarhus University. Please refer to the tenure track guidelines for the tenure review criteria and for the tenure review process.

Application procedure

Shortlisting is used. This means that after the deadline for applications – and with the assistance from the assessment committee chairman, and the assessment committee if necessary, – the head of department selects the candidates to be evaluated. The selection is made on the basis of an assessment of who of the candidates are most relevant considering the requirements of the advertisement. All applicants will be notified within 6 weeks whether or not their applications have been sent to an expert assessment committee for evaluation. The selected applicants will be informed about the composition of the committee and will receive his/her assessment.

Letter of reference

If you want a referee to upload a letter of reference on your behalf, please state the referee's contact information when you submit your application. We strongly recommend that you make an agreement with the person in question before you enter the referee's contact information, and that you ensure that the referee has enough time to write the letter of reference before the application deadline.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to ensure that letters of reference received after the application deadline will be taken into consideration.

If you wish to add a referee **after** you have submitted your application, you must send this person's details (name, job title, place of work, and email address) as well as the name of the position you have applied for to: HR.Nattech@au.dk

Formalities and salary range

Technical Sciences refers to the [Ministerial Order on the Appointment of Academic Staff at Danish Universities under the Danish Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation](#).

The application must be in English and include a curriculum vitae, degree certificate, a complete list of publications, a statement of future research plans and information about research activities, teaching portfolio and verified information on previous teaching experience (if any). Guidelines for applicants can be found [here](#).

Appointment shall be in accordance with the collective labour agreement between the Danish Ministry of Taxation and the Danish Confederation of Professional Associations. Further information on qualification requirements and job content may be found in the [Memorandum on Job Structure for Academic Staff at Danish Universities](#).

Salary depends on seniority as agreed between the Danish Ministry of Taxation and the Confederation of Professional Associations.

Aarhus University's ambition is to be an attractive and inspiring workplace for all and to foster a culture in which each individual has opportunities to thrive, achieve and develop. We view equality and diversity as assets, and we welcome all applicants.

Research activities will be evaluated in relation to actual research time. Thus, we encourage applicants to specify periods of leave without research activities, in order to be able to subtract these periods from the span of the scientific career during the evaluation of scientific productivity.

Aarhus University offers a broad variety of services for international researchers and accompanying families, including relocation service and career counselling to expat partners. Read more [here](#). Please find more information about entering and working in Denmark [here](#).

The application must be submitted via Aarhus University's recruitment system, which can be accessed under the job advertisement on Aarhus University's website.

Aarhus University

Aarhus University is an academically diverse and research-intensive university with a strong commitment to high-quality research and education and the development of

society nationally and globally. The university offers an inspiring research and teaching environment to its 37,000 students (FTEs) and 8.700 employees and has an annual revenue of EUR 1.106 billion. Learn more at www.international.au.dk/