



Job Title: Research Assistant

Grade: 6

Salary: £31,396 to £36,024 per annum

Department: Molecular and Cell Biology

Hours/Contract: Full-time, fixed term contract until 31st December 2026

Job Family: Teaching and Research

Reference: 10561

Role Purpose

This post is for a Research Assistant to support the determination of protein structure and dynamics involved in heterochromatin formation. The successful applicant should have a strong background in molecular biology and biochemistry. The research will involve expressing and purifying proteins from recombinant sources, running enzymatic and biophysical assays, and preparing samples for NMR and X-ray crystallography. Ideally the successful applicant should also have experience in the directed evolution of proteins

Main Duties and Responsibilities

Research

- To support a research team in the acquisition, evaluation and /or interpretation of data and other specialised information.
- To carry out analyses, tests and critical evaluations using agreed techniques, novel approaches and/or models.
- To prepare and undertake high-quality data analysis and tests using appropriate techniques and novel approaches.
- To contribute to the development or choice of techniques, critiques, approaches, models and research methods.
- To summarise findings, record, and disseminate where appropriate to members of the research group
- To contribute to research outputs such as co-authored journal articles/technical papers/book chapters relating to the work
- To carry out literature searches within pre-specified parameters.
- To assist in supporting research students in the use of specific methods or approaches under the direction of their line manager.

Professional Development:

- Duties and opportunities to engage in work that support your own professional development.

Impact and Knowledge Exchange:

- Participate in workshops and conferences to support the dissemination of research findings.





Leadership and Citizenship:

- Contribute to the overall success of the research programme

Internal and External Relationships

Communicate and liaise with colleagues and collaborators involved in the above-mentioned research programme and other projects and the team is undertaking, on a regular basis to review and plan research activities.

Communicate with Technical Managers and core technical support staff on a regular basis to discuss ongoing lab issues, health and safety matters, and future plans for the laboratory areas.

Occasionally communicate and liaise with research collaborators, both nationally and internationally, under the instruction of your line manager.

Planning and Organising

With guidance from the Principal Investigator, or equivalent, plan own work and prioritise research and project/laboratory activities on a regular basis, including co-ordinating resources and maintenance of samples and equipment.

- The post-holder will be required to effectively manage their time to deliver on the priorities of the research programme with the support of their line manager.
- Attend suitable training courses or equivalent and be proactive in terms of continued professional development.

Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience

Essential

- Evidence of Honours degree and/or relevant experience *
- Practical experience and knowledge of applying research skills and techniques to deliver outputs on time and to the required quality.
- Experience in biochemistry, biophysics and structural biology. *
- Experience with protein expression. *
- Good understanding of chemistry.
- Solid understanding of mathematics and statistical data analysis.

Desirable

- A PhD or currently studying for a PhD
- Masters qualification
- Experience in the directed evolution of proteins.
- Track record of publication of high-quality journal papers. *

Skills, Abilities and Competencies





Essential

- Ability to demonstrate research potential and enthusiasm for the subject area and contribute to delivering high quality research *
- Excellent analytical and problem solving skills *
- Evidence of continued personal development of subject expertise *
- Team player, support broader research group
- Excellent communication skills – written and verbal*
- Ability to prioritise tasks within agreed work schedules*
- Commitment to continuous professional development (CPD)
- Willingness to participate in workshops and conferences to support the dissemination of results and findings

****Criteria to be used in shortlisting candidates for interview***

Reason for Fixed Term Contract

The reason for the fixed term contract is stated in section 1.9 in the summary of contractual terms in your contract of employment.

Criminal Declaration

If you become an employee, you must inform your manager immediately, in writing, if you are the subject of any current or future police investigations/legal proceedings, which could result in a criminal offence, conviction, caution, bind-over or charges, or warnings.

Supporting University Activities

As a University of Leicester citizen, you are expected to support key university activities such as clearing, graduation ceremonies, student registration and recruitment open days. We expect all staff as citizens to work flexibly across the University if required.

University Values

Inclusive - We are diverse in our makeup and united in ambition. Our diversity is our strength and makes our community stronger.

Inspiring - We are passionate about inspiring individuals to succeed and realise their ambitions. We challenge our community to think differently, to get involved, and to constantly embrace new ideas.

Impactful - As Citizens of Change we will generate new ideas which deliver impact and empower our community

Equity and Diversity

We believe that equity, diversity and inclusion is integral to a successful modern workplace. By developing and implementing policies and systems that challenge stereotypes across all aspects of our work, we have a culture that recognises and values the diverse contributions of our staff which benefits





everyone. Our strong values of inclusivity and equity support our efforts to attract a diverse range of high quality staff and students, and identify our University as a progressive and innovative workplace that mainstreams equity, diversity and inclusion.

