



Job Title: Research Associate - Phage Proteins

Grade: 7

Salary: £39,906 to £46,049 per annum

Department: Division of Microbiology and Infection

Hours/Contract: Full time fixed term contract until 31/12/2027

Job Family: Teaching and Research

Reference: 13131

Role Purpose

You will play a leading role in the characterization of phage proteins. You will work with the current lead scientist protein scientist who oversees phage protein characterization, to understand the role of bacteriophage proteins and how they might be exploited for therapy. The project will broadly be in understanding the function of novel phage proteins and the structure of bacteriophages.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

Research:

- To undertake a research and development in a project to understand phages further by characterising the structure and function of novel phage proteins identified within clinically or environmentally relevant phages.
- To support in the collection, evaluation and interpretation of the research data in experimental design and performance, and work autonomously to attain project milestones.
- To contribute expert knowledge on the choice of techniques, approaches, and methods used in the characterisation of phage proteins.
- To contribute to the overall research programme using innovative research models, novel approaches and techniques.
- In agreement with the line manager, liaise with project collaborators to progress the research
- To contribute in writing up research findings for dissemination amongst the research team and broader international community, and develop ideas and contributions for future grants, technical outputs.
- To represent the research group by disseminating results/findings at national and international conferences and broader community.
- To contribute to research outputs as a co-author to journal articles, technical papers, monograph, book chapter.
- With the support of colleagues, identify opportunities to apply for fellowships and/or further project grants
- To provide guidance to other staff and students (involved in the research programme).

Professional Development:

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

Impact and Knowledge Exchange:

- Network and contribute to the maintaining and furthering of the wider research programme and research area
- To contribute to industry collaborations
- To consult effectively on own specialism directly with people external to the University





- To engage positively and pro-actively in research impact

Leadership and Citizenship:

- Guidance to other team members both research staff and students
- Pro-actively build networks and collaborations.
- Providing mentoring and coaching to research students.

Internal and External Relationships

- Establish/maintain collaborations with other researchers at the University of Leicester, nationally and internationally.
- Participate in School/departmental and university-wide seminar and public engagement activities to stimulate dissemination of information and collaboration.
- Disseminate results at national and international conferences.

Planning and Organising

- Plan and co-ordinate research with collaborators.
- Plan and organise dissemination of information to both highly specialised academics and the lay public.
- Plan, organise and submit grant applications for further and supplementary funding.

Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience

Essential

- PhD in chemical biology, biochemistry, structural biology or the equivalent professional qualification and experience.*
- Postdoctoral experience in biochemistry including structural biology, biophysical and biochemical techniques.*
- Possess sufficient specialist knowledge in biochemistry and structural biology*
- Experience in expressing and purification of proteins.*
- Demonstrable experience in molecular cloning and subcloning of genes, including construct design, vector selection, and validation of recombinant plasmids.*
- Evidence of writing publishable quality material e.g grant applications, journal papers, technical reports, articles, patents.*
- Experience of protein characterisation techniques: SDS-PAGE and Western blotting, kinetic analysis, enzyme assays *
- Excellent communication skills as demonstrated by outreach, presentations at national/international meetings etc.
- Demonstrable experience in X-ray crystallography and/or cryo-electron microscopy (cryo-EM)*.
- Evidence of proven analytical problem-solving capability.
- Expertise in relevant approaches/models and analytical techniques and ability to develop new ones where required.*





Desirable

- Evidence of strong network within the research field within the UK and internationally.
- Experience in the purification and isolation of bacteriophages derived proteins

Skills, Abilities and Competencies

Essential

- Evidence, willingness and ability to work with internal and external stakeholders
- Evidence of continued development of subject expertise
- Excellent communication and presentation skills – written and verbal evidenced by the ability to communicate complex information to different audiences
- Evidence of working effectively as part of a team and the ability to work independently
- Working towards independence and ability to be involved in collaborative research
- Evidence and commitment to Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for yourself, and encourage commitment to learn and develop in others
- Collegiate member of a research team
- Experience of supervising and training MSc/PhD students or supervision and training of junior staff members *

Desirable

- Budget management skills
- Experience in statistical analysis of data and bioinformatic analysis
- Ability to work well in a multisite team
- Proven ability of training and supervision of new members of the lab, including undergraduate MSc and PhD students
- Evidence of involvement in innovative research.

****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 encouraged to support key university activities such as clearing, graduation ceremonies, student registration and recruitment open days. We encourage all staff





as citizens to work flexibly across the University if required. If supporting these activities is likely to affect your workload, please speak to your line manager in the first instance

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

Freedom of Speech

The University is committed to upholding freedom of speech and academic freedom within the law throughout our recruitment processes. We ensure that all candidates are considered based on merit and suitability for the role, without regard to their lawful viewpoints or the expression of challenging or controversial ideas. Our recruitment policies and practices are designed to protect applicants from discrimination or adverse treatment on the basis of their opinions, and to foster an environment where open debate and diverse perspectives are valued as essential to our academic mission.

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 equality 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 equality, diversity and inclusion.

