



Job Title: Research Associate
Grade: 7
Salary: £38,205 to £44,263 per annum (pro rata if part time)
Department: Genetics and Genome Biology
Hours/Contract: Full Time, fixed term till 30 September 2025, with potential for extension for a further two years
Job Family: Teaching and Research
Reference: 10068

Role Purpose

To work on a cutting-edge project funded by the Leverhulme Trust aimed to understand the origin of vision, based within the Feuda lab at the University of Leicester’s Department of Genetics and Genome Biology. You will generate single-cell atlas dataset for non-bilaterian metazoans. You will also work closely with collaborators at the University of Bristol and the University of Heidelberg.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

Research

- Conduct independent research projects focused on generating single-cell transcriptomic datasets for non-bilaterian metazoans.
- Utilize advanced computational and statistical methods to analyse large-scale genomic datasets and decipher evolutionary patterns.
- Perform wet-lab experiments aimed at validating cell-diversity (e.g. scRNA-seq in non-bilaterian animals (e.g., cell dissociation, FACs), validate the expression using Hybridization Chain Reaction and confocal)
- Contribute to grant writing and assist in seeking external funding to support research endeavours.
- Mentor and supervise graduate students and contribute to the intellectual growth of the research group.

Professional Development

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

Impact and Knowledge Exchange:

- Collaborate with multidisciplinary teams to integrate molecular evolution with wet lab experiments.
- Publish research findings in peer-reviewed journals and present results at scientific conferences

Leadership and Citizenship:

- Guidance to other team members both research staff and students





- Pro-actively build networks and collaborations.
- Providing mentoring and coaching to Early Career Researchers and research students.

Internal and External Relationships

- Regular meetings with members of the programme research group
- Liaison with external collaborators

Planning and Organising

You will be required to effectively manage your time to plan your research activity and to deliver on the priorities of the project:

- Prioritise tasks within agreed work schedules;
- Plan for specific aspects of research incorporating issues such as deadlines, project milestones and overall research aims;
- Adapt daily and weekly plans to accommodate new developments and be flexible to the changing priorities of the research project;

Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience

Essential

- PhD or equivalent in appropriate discipline or the equivalent professional qualification and experience
- Evidence of a contribution to peer-reviewed journal papers or equivalent e.g technical report/writing a piece of software *
- Evidence of proven analytical problem solving capability *
- Expertise in relevant approaches/models and analytical techniques and ability to develop new ones where required.

Skills, Abilities and Competencies

Essential

- A PhD in Genetics, Developmental or Molecular Biology, or a related field.
- Strong background in single-cell genomics or molecular biology*.
- Proficiency in programming (e.g., Python, R) or experience with bioinformatics tools*.
- Demonstrated expertise in analysing high-throughput genomic data and implementing statistical methods for evolutionary analysis*.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills, with a proven track record of scientific publications.
- Ability to work both independently and collaboratively within a diverse research team.
- Prior experience with grant writing and securing research funding is advantageous.





Desirable

- Experience in Machine Learning

****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

Equality and Diversity

We believe that equality, 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.

