



Job Title: Research Associate

Grade: 7

Salary: £36,386 per annum due to funding restrictions

Department: Molecular and Cell Biology

Hours/Contract: Full-time, fixed term contract until 28 February 2023

Job Family: Teaching and Research

Reference: 6250

Role Purpose

The BBSRC is funding a biological structure-function research program led by Dr Thomas Schalch. It aims at identifying new genomic structures and relate them to how genomes work in different organisms and in different physiological states. For this purpose, the program plans to develop a novel technology based on targeted yeast mutations and genome sequencing to decipher the fine details of the three-dimensional structure of eukaryotic genomes.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

The main goals of the Postdoctoral Research Associate are:

- To establish site-specific cross-linking technology for histone proteins. The primary model organism will be fission yeast with later transfer of the technology to budding yeast and model animals like *Drosophila*, or mammalian cells.
- To develop the micro-C protocol and liaise with the laboratories of Nils Krietenstein and Oliver Rando to prepare samples for next-generation sequencing.
- To produce reconstituted chromatin samples for *in vitro* characterization of genomic structures.
- Specific research activities: the post-holder will be expected to:
 - Liaise with collaborators in the University of Leicester, the laboratories of Nils Krietenstein, Oliver Rando and other research centres to ensure the smooth progression of applied and methodological research projects (including taking a lead role in liaising with one or more collaborators where agreed with line manager);
 - Prioritise tasks within agreed work schedules;
 - Plan for specific aspects of research: if given a particular hypothesis to examine, plan for own contribution up to three months ahead, incorporating issues such as resource availability, deadlines, project milestones and overall research aims.
 - Adapt daily and weekly plans to accommodate new developments (recognising that research is not always predictable);
 - Be flexible to the changing priorities of the research program;
 - Take responsibility for organisation of research resources;
 - Plan several months ahead to meet deadlines for journal publications and to prepare abstracts and presentations for conferences;
 - Organise data and results so that they are easily accessible to colleagues;





- Carefully monitor and check results;
 - Write up research findings for publication and dissemination: this will include taking primary responsibility for drafting some research papers, and contributing as a junior partner to the authorship of other research papers.
 - Write grant applications with assistance and advice (where agreed with line manager) and to make specific contributions to the writing of grant applications;
 - Advise other staff and students;
 - Attend team meetings and other relevant meetings;
- To participate in general laboratory activities to ensure the efficient functioning of the lab including adherence to health and safety procedures affecting self and others at all times.
- The post-holder will also be expected to:
- Undertake direct supervision of PhD students, where agreed with the line manager;
 - Engage in relevant professional activities and in continuous professional development;

Internal and External Relationships

- Internal:**
- Day to day supervision of under-graduate and post-graduate research students.
 - Academic group leader regarding progress of the project weekly
 - Academics, post docs, post grads, and technicians within the laboratory to liaise on a daily basis regarding availability of equipment and materials, exchange of information and discussion of research and ideas
 - Other members of the department for critical discussion of the research and exchange of new ideas and approaches that might benefit the research
 - Take part in and present findings at regular group meetings
 - Liaison with collaborators within the University of Leicester
- External:**
- Liaison with collaborators outside the University of Leicester

Planning and Organising

- The post holder will be required to effectively manage their time to deliver on the priorities of the project.

Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience

- Essential**
- First degree and PhD in genetics, biochemistry, molecular biology, structural biology or related discipline *
 - Experience of experimental design and data analysis *





- Evidence of coherent research activity (such as involvement in successful grant applications and publications); *
- Experience in the field of chromatin and basic knowledge of *S. pombe* genetics; *
- Experience in next-generation sequencing and analysis; *
- Experience in isolation and reconstitution of chromatin; *

Desirable

- A working knowledge of UNIX as well as Windows operating systems;
- A track record of collaboration in biological research.

Skills, Abilities and Competencies

Essential

- Sound molecular biology skills; *
- Excellent written communication skills; *
- Excellent verbal communication skills; *
- Well-developed understanding of Health and Safety regulations and procedures. *
- Proven analytical and technical/scientific problem-solving capability. *
- Ability to work independently and as part of a research team. *

Desirable

- Familiarity with next-generation sequencing and software pipelines to analyse the sequencing data;

****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.

