

Job Title: Research Technician (Phage Reference Reagent)

Grade: 5

Salary: £26,038 to £30,505 per annum pro rata

Department: Genetics, Genomics and Cancer Sciences

Hours/Contract: Part-time (0.57FTE, 20 hours per week) , fixed term contract for 3 months

Job Family: Technical and Experimental

Reference: 10803

Role Purpose

The post-holder will be based within the Centre for Phage Research at the University of Leicester. Bacteriophages offer the potential as new therapeutics as alternatives to antimicrobials. This work will focus on characterising phages with the view to developing a phage reference reagent for regulatory purposes.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

- To perform specialised laboratory experiments on the isolation and characterisation of bacteriophages. This will include both phenotypic and bioinformatic assessments of the phages.
- To perform specialised laboratory experiments on the isolation of bacteria.
- To assist the PI preparation of data that may be subsequently used for publication in scientific papers, grant submissions and presentations at local, national, and international conferences.
- To produce and standardise protocols and assist with the development and validation of new web-based techniques to support the research work, under the guidance of the Project leads.
- Assist the members of the Leicester Centre for Phage research with any other lab duties as and when required, including but not limited to, supporting colleagues learning through development and demonstration of techniques, use of specialist equipment, supporting stock replenishment, hosting visitors.
- To accurately record, present and discuss experimental data with the Project leads.
- To ensure the lab and subsequent lab work is in adherence to Health and Safety regulations consistent with working within a category 2 biosafety area

Internal and External Relationships

- Daily contact with staff at all levels about the execution of duties
- Contact with members of the team based at the University of Leicester for services and Collaboration
- Regular contact with supervisor to review and plan research activity
- Communication with other academics, staff, postdocs, PhD students, and technicians within the laboratory and to liaise daily regarding availability of equipment and materials and to exchange information
- Liaise with external collaborators to explain progress and milestones





Planning and Organising

- Plan and prioritise research objectives in consultation and under the direction of the Project Lead to meet deadlines
- Plan and conduct own research on a daily and weekly basis and in collaboration with other members of the group.
- Adapt daily and weekly plans to accommodate new developments

Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience

Essential

- Technical or Scientific education to ONC or NVQ3 level*
- Previous laboratory-based experience in working with phages*
- Previous laboratory experience of molecular biology*
- Well-developed understanding of good laboratory practice (GLP) and Health and Safety regulations and procedures*
- Maintenance of comprehensive and confidential records, and a methodical approach to working

Desirable

- Experience of working with pathogenic bacteria
- Specialist knowledge of the microbial research field

Skills, Abilities and Competencies

Essential

- Good IT skills to include experience in the use of Microsoft software*
- Experience of working with genomic data and use of basic Bioinformatic tools*
- Good Laboratory and Microbiological skills including PCR and DNA extraction*
- Ability to work flexibly and organise and prioritise own work to agreed deadlines
- Excellent written and communication skills *

Desirable

- Experience of assembling and annotating phage genomes

****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.

