

**Job Title:** Research Assistant  
**Grade:** 6  
**Salary:** £32,296 to £36,924 per annum  
**Department:** Genetics, Genomics and Cancer Sciences  
**Hours/Contract:** Full-time, fixed-Term for 24 months  
**Job Family:** Teaching and Research  
**Reference:** 11560

## Role Summary

We are seeking a highly motivated Research Assistant to join a dynamic research team in Cancer Precision Medicine at the Leicester Cancer Research Centre, University of Leicester. The successful candidate will contribute to innovative projects focused on liquid biopsy-based biomarkers and multi-omics approaches for breast cancer research, with an emphasis on microfluidic-based CTC enrichment, genomic analysis of circulating tumour cells (CTCs) extracellular vesicles (EVs) and cell-free DNA (cfDNA) methylation signatures. The role will involve laboratory research and supporting the research team for collection and processing of samples from patients with cancer.

## Main Duties and Responsibilities

### Research

Act as key liaison between the clinical and research team to streamline patient sample collection for biobank studies;

- Processing of blood samples for recovery of circulating tumour cells, cell-free DNA, and EVs
- Application of molecular biology techniques, NGS library preparation, qPCR, ddPCR and cell culture
- Ensure maintenance of laboratory standards in sample processing areas, provide laboratory support and cover where necessary.
- 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 lab meetings, journal clubs, workshops and relevant scientific conferences to support the dissemination of research findings.

### Leadership and Citizenship:

- Contribute to the overall success of the research programme, Research Centre, and Department and College





## 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.

NHS patients & staff

## Planning and Organising

- Assist in maintaining laboratory records, handling biological samples, and ensuring compliance with health and safety regulations.
- 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

- BSc/MSc in biological sciences or equivalent \*
- Experience in DNA/RNA extraction, PCR/qPCR/ddPCR, and/or next-generation sequencing (NGS).\*
- Excellent understanding of regulatory requirement around the human tissue act\*
- Excellent organisational skills and ability to manage multiple research tasks.\*

### Desirable

Experience of clinical study support within a university environment

- Experience with liquid biopsy methodologies.
- Understanding of database set-up

## 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 and Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)

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.

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This post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 because the appointee will have substantial access to young people and/or vulnerable adults. Therefore, an appointment to this post will be subject to checking through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). The successful applicant for this post will, therefore, be required to give consent for the University to check and obtain appropriate clearance with the DBS for the existence and content of any criminal record in the form of a Standard DBS clearance.

## NHS Research Governance

Where it is determined that the duties of this post for the purposes of research involve work with the NHS, it is necessary to ensure that the performance of the duties attached to the post are covered by NHS research governance arrangements and the appointee must comply with all such arrangements, which may include occupational health clearance and DBS clearance.

## 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.

