

**Job Title:** Research Associate Phage Production Lead  
**Grade:** 7  
**Salary:** £39,355 to £45,413 per annum, pro-rata if part-time  
**Department:** Genetics, Genomics and Cancer Sciences  
**Hours/Contract:** Full-time, or job share considered, fixed term contract until 31 March 2027  
**Job Family:** Teaching and Research  
**Reference:** 11388

## Role Purpose

The post-holder will be based within the Becky Mayer Centre for Phage Research at the University of Leicester.

With the rise of antimicrobial resistance, novel treatments are desperately needed. Bacteriophages, or phages, are viruses that attack bacterial cells and offer the potential as therapeutics to treat pathogenic bacterial infections.

The aim of this project is to support the transition of phage-based treatments from being experimental and laboratory based to being adopted into mainstream clinical practice. Key to this is developing scalable production methods for bacteriophage ready to meet future GMP requirements. Scaling up phage production will transform our translational ability and allow us to determine the parameters needed to make phage products.

Your role will be to establish and optimise the pipeline for scalable phage production to produce high quality and high titre phage. You will work collaboratively with researchers in industry and academia, and independently as part of a research team to achieve defined milestones and produce high quality research as part of the wider programme.

## Main Duties and Responsibilities

### Research

- To undertake research to develop and optimise the pipeline for scalable phage production to produce high quality and high titre phage
- To lead in the collection, evaluation and interpretation of the research data in experimental design and performance, and work autonomously to attain project milestones.
- To contribute to the development of the choice of phage production techniques, critiques, approaches, models and methods
- 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 lead 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.
- To develop and carry out a plan to extend an area of personal research, or contribute as a team member to the development of a broader programme, this may include contributing to the writing of research bids/grants.
- 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).
- To actively seek opportunities to carry out multi-disciplinary research with other research groups at the University or stakeholders external to the University, with the approval of the Principal Investigator (PI).

## 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 Early Career Researchers and research students.

## Internal and External Relationships

Regular meetings with members of the programme research group

Meeting members of the department for critical discussion of the research and exchange of new ideas and approaches that might benefit the research

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 near completion) or equivalent in appropriate discipline or the equivalent professional qualification and experience \*
- Experience in scaling up the production of microbial products\*
- Experience in large scale purification of microbial products, preferably large protein complexes or viruses
- Experience in quantification of biological products before, during and following production
- Knowledge of GMP processes \*
- Evidence of proven analytical problem-solving capability \*
- Expertise in relevant approaches/models and analytical techniques and ability to develop new ones where required.

### Desirable

- Experience of producing high quality and high titre phage in large volumes
- Experience of working in a phage production facility
- Evidence of contributions to peer-reviewed journal papers or equivalent
- Experience of establishing and optimising phage pipelines in a production facility
- Experience of working in a biotech company
- Experience of working to GMP

## Skills, Abilities and Competencies

### Essential

- Willingness and ability to work with internal and external stakeholders\*
- Evidence of continued development of subject expertise\*
- Excellent communication skills – written and verbal evidenced by the ability to communicate complex information \*
- 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
- Proven ability of training and supervision of new members of the lab, including undergraduate MSc and PhD students

### Desirable





- An understanding of the regulatory requirements to translate products from the laboratory into a clinical setting

***\*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 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.

