

Job Title: Research Assistant
Grade: 6
Salary: £33,002 - £37,694 per annum
Department: Medical Sciences, Division of Cancer Sciences
Hours/Contract: Full Time, fixed term contract for 24 months
Job Family: Teaching and Research
Reference: 12794

Role Purpose

This post, funded by MRC, Wellcome Trust, and Innovate UK, forms part of the INTREPID programme (IN vitro TumouR Explant models for evaluating cancer complexity and Patient Diversity), hosted within the Patient-Derived Explant Facility in the Division of Cancer Sciences. INTREPID aims to advance live human tumour culture methodologies to establish this approach as a widely adopted and sustainable model for basic and applied cancer research across academia and industry. The postholder will work closely with Principal Investigators (PIs) and the Explant Facility Manager to deliver the programme's research objectives, including coordinating patient sample collections with biobank teams, performing explant culture and multi-immunofluorescence analysis, supporting data interpretation and reporting, ensuring compliance with documentation and GCLP standards, maintaining laboratory operations, and contributing to student training and supervision within the facility.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

Research

- To support the INTREPID research team in the acquisition, evaluation and /or interpretation of explant data
- To prepare and undertake high-quality data analysis and tests using appropriate digital pathology and computational techniques
- To summarise findings, record, and disseminate where appropriate to members of the research group
- To contribute to research outputs such as co-authored journal articles/technical papers/book chapters relating to the work
- 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 workshops and conferences to support the dissemination of research findings.

Leadership and Citizenship

- Contribute to the overall success of the INTREPID research programme





Internal and External Relationships

Communicate and liaise with colleagues and collaborators involved in the INTREPID research programme and other projects the explant facility 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.

Planning and Organising

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

- Evidence of Honours degree and/or relevant experience*
- Practical experience and knowledge of applying research skills and techniques to deliver outputs on time and to the required quality*
- Experience of clinical study support within a university environment*
- Excellent understanding of regulatory requirements around the Human Tissue Act*
- Experience of audit processes*

Desirable

- Currently studying for a PhD
- Masters' qualification
- Experience or knowledge of the Patient-Derived Explant platform
- Experience or knowledge of immunostaining, histology and image analysis
- Experience or knowledge of R computer programming

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

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 encouraged to support key university activities such as clearing, graduation ceremonies, student registration and recruitment open days. We encourage all staff as citizens to work flexibly across the University if required. If supporting these activities is likely to affect your workload, please speak to your line manager in the first instance

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

Freedom of Speech

The University is committed to upholding freedom of speech and academic freedom within the law throughout our recruitment processes. We ensure that all candidates are considered based on merit and suitability for the role, without regard to their lawful viewpoints or the expression of challenging or controversial ideas. Our recruitment policies and practices are designed to protect applicants from discrimination or adverse treatment on the basis of their opinions, and to foster an environment where open debate and diverse perspectives are valued as essential to our academic mission.





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.

