

Job Title: Research Associate

Grade: 7

Salary: £39,906 to £46,049 per annum, pro-rata if part-time

Department: Microbiology and Infection

Hours/Contract: Full-time or job share, fixed term contract to 30 September 2026

Reference: 12228

Role Purpose

This post-holder will undertake fundamental and applied research on development of phage-based diagnostic and treatment tools for Tuberculosis. This project is jointly funded by National Institute for Health and Care Research and Becky Mayer Centre for Phage Research and will involve collaboration with PBD Biotech and international collaborators at Hasanuddin University (Indonesia) The post holder will work within the new Microbiology and Infection Division. They will work collaboratively and independently as part of a research team to achieve defined milestones and produce high quality research as part of a wider programme.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

Research

- To undertake scientific research on detection of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (*Mtb*) in blood samples from Tuberculosis patients
- To undertake scientific research on isolation of new phages targeting *Mtb* and *Mycobacterium bovis*
- 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 develop techniques, critiques, approaches, models and methods for evaluation of phage based assays, including the Actiphage assay
- In agreement with the project PI and co-I, liaise with project collaborators to progress the research and to train collaborators
- 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 lead author and co-author to journal articles, technical papers, monograph, book chapter.
- To assist in safe running of laboratory, writing RAs and SOPs and training of staff and students, including working in the category 3 containment laboratory
- 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.





- To provide guidance to other staff and students involved in the research programme
- To manage project budget concerning consumables and research expenses

Professional Development

- Duties and opportunities to engage in work that support your own professional development.
- To complete mandatory training

Impact and Knowledge Exchange

- Network and contribute to the maintaining and furthering of the wider research programme and research area
- To contribute to collaborations with international partners and organisation of public events to publicise the importance of Phage research and treatment of tuberculosis
- 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, including Becky Mayer Centre for Phage Research and Leicester Tuberculosis 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, contributing to collaboration agreements and material transfer agreements

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 in Biochemistry or Microbiology or submitted PhD thesis*





- Evidence of development of phage-based diagnostic methods
- Experience in working with *Mtb*, including infection studies using cell lines and writing specialised SOPs*
- Expertise in *Mtb* detection in clinical samples and infected tissue with relevant approaches/models and analytical techniques (including PCR and digital PCR) and ability to develop new ones where required *

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

Desirable

- Budget management skills

****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.

