

Job Title: Postdoctoral Research Associate

Grade: 7

Salary: £39,906 to £44,746 per annum

Department: MCB

Hours/Contract: Full-time fixed-term contract. Funding available for 3 years.

Job Family: Teaching and Research

Reference: 12952

Role Purpose

This post is part of a prestigious research consortium (Advanced Multiscale Biological Imaging using European Infrastructures (AMBER)) of 47 postdoctoral researchers, co-funded by European Commission Marie-Sklodowska-Curie-Actions. The AMBER consortium has been assembled for the exploitation and development of large-scale European infrastructures to address key needs for biological imaging. This covers length scales from molecular, through cellular, to tissue, organ and organism levels of organisation. AMBER brings together four research centres (University of Lund, EMBL, IMOL and Leicester Institute for Structural and Chemical Biology, LISCB) and three large scale research infrastructures (MAXIV, ESS and ILL). These cover a wide range of competence including clinical practitioners, biological and biomedical scientists, physical scientists, and facility/infrastructure experts. LISCB brings to AMBER collaborative projects on cell imaging, epigenetics and cellular fate, metalloenzyme mechanisms and biocatalysis, enzyme mechanisms and regulatory processes inside the nucleus, and time-resolved imaging of enzymatic mechanisms. AMBER will create fellows with unprecedented medical, biological, and methodological capabilities. Work will include technique development, particularly in terms of combining imaging techniques and data to provide a more integrated picture of life processes in the context of health & disease. The consortium programme provides exceptional research, training, and career opportunities; this includes a 3-month secondment to be taken in one of the partnering research centres (Lund, EMBL or IMOL) or large scale research infrastructures (ILL, MAXIV or ESS).

Candidates can choose between four research projects, each a collaboration between LISCB PIs. <https://le.ac.uk/research/institutes/structural-chemical-biology/opportunities> Each project encompasses a 3-months internship at one of the AMBER partners (see individual projects).

Main Duties and Responsibilities

The PDRA will be expected to:

- spearhead the research team in the acquisition, evaluation and interpretation of data in line with the aims and objectives of the research project.
- support BSc, MSc and PhD students and supervise research assistants in the use of specific methods or approaches.
- work in a team and report to the group's supervisors.
- identify opportunities to write applications for fellowships and/or project grants.
- summarise findings, record, and disseminate where appropriate to members of the research group.
- contribute to research outputs such as co-authored journal articles/technical papers/book chapters relating to the work.





- participate in general laboratory activities to ensure the efficient functioning of the lab including adherence to health and safety procedures affecting self and others at all times.
- undertake such duties consistent with the grade of the post as may be reasonably required.

Professional Development:

- To engage in work and opportunities that support your own professional development.
- Engage with AMBER opportunities, including a 3 month secondment away from the host institution.
- Apply for suitable fellowships and other independent funding opportunities.

Impact and Knowledge Exchange:

- To disseminate and share expertise through communication and public engagement activities.
- To represent the work of the University in the specific field locally and nationally in appropriate networks and/or in public activities.

Leadership and Citizenship:

- To innovate in an area of engagement activity e.g outreach, widening participation, public debate and awareness at national and/or international level
- To support outreach activities beyond the University

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. Communicate and liaise with research collaborators, both nationally and internationally, under the instruction of your line manager.

Planning and Organising

- With guidance from the Primary Investigators, 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

- PhD and significant equivalent/demonstrable experience in an appropriate discipline *
- Practical experience and knowledge of applying research skills and techniques to deliver outputs on time and to the required quality.





- Experience in structural biology, biological or pharmaceutical chemistry, protein production, biochemistry and/or cell biology, depending on the project applied for. *
- Track record of publication of high-quality journal papers. *

Desirable

- Track record of PhD supervision and/or playing an active role in supporting postgraduate research students.
- Experience of project management of a research programme *

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 position is funded by a fixed term grant.

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.

