

Job Title: Research Assistant

Grade: 6

Salary: £33,002 to £37,694 per annum, pro-rata if part-time

Department: Cardiovascular Sciences

Hours/Contract: Full-time, fixed term contract for 18 months up to 30 September 2027

Job Family: Teaching and Research

Reference: 12931

Role Purpose

We are seeking a highly motivated Research Assistant to join a dynamic research team in Cardiovascular Precision Medicine at the Division of Cardiovascular Sciences, University of Leicester. The successful candidate will contribute to innovative projects focused on novel biomarker discovery, validation and translation in maladaptive cardiac energy metabolism in multimorbid cardiovascular disease. You will conduct research using multi-omics approaches e.g. (proteomics/metabolomics) to identify and to investigate novel genes and factors, characterize cellular and molecular mechanisms of multimorbid cardiovascular disease progression. The role will involve laboratory research, data processing and analysis.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

Research

- To support a research team in the acquisition, evaluation and /or interpretation of data and other specialised information.
- To carry out sample preparation of biological samples prior to analyses and tests using mass spectrometry-based proteomics, metabolomics, novel approaches and/or models.
- To prepare and undertake high-quality data analysis and tests using appropriate bioinformatic techniques and novel approaches.
- 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 carry out literature searches within pre-specified parameters.
- 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 conferences to support the dissemination of research findings.

Leadership and Citizenship:

- Contribute to the overall success of the research programme, Group, Division 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.

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.
- Assist in maintaining laboratory records, handling biological samples, and ensuring compliance with health and safety regulations
- Attend suitable training courses or equivalent and be proactive in terms of continued professional development.

Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience

Essential

- BSc/MSc degree in Biological Sciences or equivalent *
- Experience in proteomics, metabolomics and molecular & cell biology experiments*
- Experience in using liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry (LC/MS) for biomarker discovery and validation*
- Experience in using automated liquid handling robots such as Andrew and Agilent BRAVO.
- Experience in using Bioinformatic tools such as Progenesis Q1, Skyline, SPSS*.
- Knowledge and experience of research field*
- Practical experience and knowledge of applying research skills and techniques to deliver outputs on time and to the required quality.





Desirable

- PhD in appropriate discipline
- Experience in using (R) for Proteomics analysis
- Evidence of research productivity (e.g., research publications)

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.

