

Job Title: Research Assistant (or equivalent research roles at grade 6)

Grade: 6

Salary: £33,662 - £38,448 per annum

Department: School of Biological and Biomedical Sciences/ Division of Microbiology and Infection

Hours/Contract: Full time, Fixed Term

Job Family: Teaching and Research

Reference: 14107

Role Purpose

The Research Assistant will support the genetics and genomics components of the project by undertaking laboratory-based research and contributing to the delivery of project objectives. The role involves independently performing molecular cloning, RNA isolation and preparation for RNA sequencing, transcriptional reporter assays, and supporting the establishment of a mini-bioreactor system. The postholder will analyse experimental data, maintain accurate records, and work collaboratively with the research team to deliver high-quality research outcomes.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

Research

- To undertake the genetics and genomics components of the project, including the cloning and construction of tagged lipoprotein expression systems and associated molecular tools.
- To develop, establish and optimise transcriptional reporter assays to investigate gene regulation, expression dynamics and bacterial responses to environmental cues.
- To perform RNA-sequencing experiments, including sample preparation, quality control, data analysis and interpretation of transcriptomic datasets.
- To contribute to the development and implementation of functional in vitro assays, including bioreactor-based studies of linear peptides.
- To evaluate, interpret and present research findings, working independently within agreed project objectives under the guidance of the Principal Investigator and project team.
- To develop, refine and troubleshoot laboratory methods, protocols and analytical approaches relevant to the project.
- To maintain accurate research records and ensure compliance with health and safety, biosafety and data management requirements.
- To prepare research findings for dissemination through presentations, reports and publications, and contribute to the development of future funding applications.
- To support the day-to-day operation of the laboratory, including equipment maintenance, and provide training and guidance to students and new laboratory members.
- To assist with the management of project consumables and research expenditure.

Professional Development:

- Duties and opportunities to engage in work that support their own professional development.
- To complete all mandatory University training and development requirements.

Impact and Knowledge Exchange:

- To disseminate research findings through presentations at conferences, workshops and scientific meetings.
- To communicate research outcomes effectively to academic and other relevant audiences.





- To contribute to collaborative activities with academic, industrial and external partners where appropriate.

Leadership and Citizenship:

- To contribute to the successful delivery of the research programme through effective collaboration with colleagues and project partners.
- To support the training and day-to-day supervision of students and new laboratory members.

Internal and External Relationships

Regular interaction with members of the research group and close collaboration with the Postdoctoral Research Associate to coordinate project activities and achieve research objectives.
Regular liaison with technical staff and laboratory personnel regarding equipment, laboratory operations, health and safety, and research support requirements.
Communication and collaboration with project partners and external research collaborators, as required, to support project delivery and dissemination activities.

Planning and Organising

With guidance from the Principal Investigator and project team, plan and prioritise own research and laboratory activities to support the delivery of project objectives:

- Prioritise tasks within agreed work schedules and project objectives.
- Plan and organise specific aspects of the research programme, taking account of project milestones, deadlines and research priorities.
- Coordinate the use and maintenance of research resources, samples and equipment relevant to the project.
- Adapt daily and weekly work plans in response to new developments and changing project requirements.

Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience

Essential

- MSc in Microbiology or a related discipline.*
- Experience in bacterial genetics, including generation of promoter reporter strains, genetic manipulation and cloning.*
- Extensive experience working with *Staphylococcus aureus*.*
- Experience in screening and characterisation of bacterial transposon mutant libraries.*
- Experience of designing, conducting and interpreting in vitro assays and applying appropriate statistical analyses.*
- Experience in developing, optimising and troubleshooting complex laboratory methods and experimental systems.*
- Evidence of research productivity, such as conference presentations (poster or oral) and/or peer-reviewed publications.*

Desirable

- PhD in Microbiology or Genetics, or nearing completion of a PhD in one of these areas*





Skills, Abilities and Competencies

Essential

- Excellent analytical, problem-solving and organisational skills.*
- Evidence of continued development of subject expertise.*
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, including the ability to communicate complex information effectively.*
- Evidence of working effectively as part of a team and the ability to work independently.*
- Ability to prioritise tasks and manage competing demands within agreed work schedules.
- Ability to contribute to collaborative research activities.
- Commitment to continuous professional development (CPD).

Desirable

- Experience of training or supporting students and new laboratory members.
- Basic budget management experience.

**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.

