



Job Title: Research Technician
Grade: 5
Salary: £ 26,038 - £30,505 per annum, pro rata if part-time
Department: Respiratory Sciences
Hours/Contract: Full-time or job share fixed term contract to 31 October 2026
Job Family: Technical and Experimental
Reference: 10810

Role Purpose

To assist in the ongoing laboratory scientific research within respiratory research group under supervision. The post-holder will be primarily based within the Centre for Phage Research at the University of Leicester but will also work across site at the Respiratory NIHR BRC located at the Glenfield Hospital.

The respiratory tract harbors diverse and heterogeneous populations of eukaryotic and prokaryotic viruses, for example, common cold viruses and bacteriophages. Their presence affects the development and exacerbation of lung diseases either through the direct interaction with the human host or through the modulation of the microbiome. The aim of this project is to characterize different components of the human respiratory microenvironment with a focus on the virome and interactions with the microbiome in lung disease.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

- Optimise virus detection, isolation and characterisation pipelines for respiratory specimens obtained from the upper and lower airways.
- Use molecular methods to characterise the presence of DNA and RNA respiratory viruses (e.g., multiplex PCR, virus-specific assays, and sanger sequencing) and other microbes
- Use culture-based techniques to isolate bacteriophages and characterise their host range.
- Use genomics and electron microscopy to phenotype bacteriophages
- Use viromics to characterise virus communities.
- To accurately record, present and discuss experimental data with the Project leads.
- To assist with preparation of data that may be subsequently used for publication in scientific papers, grant submissions and presentations at local, national, and international conferences.
- To produce and standardise protocols and assist with the development and validation of new web-based techniques to support the research work, under the guidance of the Project leads.
- To ensure the lab and subsequent lab work is in adherence to Health and Safety regulations consistent with working within a category 2 biosafety area
- Assist with any other lab duties as and when required, including but not limited to, supporting colleagues learning through development and demonstration of techniques, use of specialist equipment, supporting stock replenishment, hosting visitors.

Internal and External Relationships

Daily contact with staff at all levels about the execution of duties





Contact with members of the team based at the University of Leicester for services and collaboration

Regular contact with supervisor to review and plan research activity

Communication with other academics, staff, postdocs, PhD students, and technicians within the laboratory and to liaise daily regarding availability of equipment and materials and to exchange information

Liaise with external collaborators to explain progress and milestones

Planning and Organising

Plan and prioritise research objectives in consultation and under the direction of the Project Lead to meet deadlines

Plan and conduct own research on a daily and weekly basis and in collaboration with other members of the group.

Adapt daily and weekly plans to accommodate new developments

Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience

Essential

- Laboratory-based experience of respiratory viruses characterisation techniques either at a diagnostic and/or research environment.
- Laboratory experience of molecular biology*
- Laboratory experience of microbiology and/or virology*
- Laboratory-based experience in working with phages*
- Laboratory-based experience in Biosafety level 2 environment*
- Technical or Scientific education to ONC or NVQ3 level*
- Well-developed understanding of good laboratory practice (GLP) and Health and Safety regulations and procedures*
- Maintenance of comprehensive and confidential records, and a methodical approach to working

Desirable

- Experience of analysing high throughput sequencing data*
- Experience of establishing homogenous cultures to amplify phages*
- Specialist knowledge of respiratory microbial and viral research field

Skills, Abilities and Competencies

Essential

- Good IT skills to include experience in the use of Microsoft software*
- Experience in working with genomic data and use of basic Bioinformatic tools*





- Good Laboratory and Microbiological skills including PCR and DNA/RNA extraction*
- Excellent written and communication skills *
- Ability to work flexibly and organise and prioritise own work to agreed deadlines

Desirable

- Experience of assembling and annotating virus genomes

****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

Equality and Diversity

We believe that equality, 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.

