



Job Title: Research Associate

Grade: 7

Salary: £39,355 to £45,413 per annum, pro rata if part-time

Department: Cardiovascular Sciences

Hours/Contract: Full-time, or job share considered, fixed term contract until 31 March 2028

Job Family: Teaching and Research

Reference: 11475

Role Purpose

This new job opportunity is funded by Medical Research Council and the research project is led by non-clinical and clinical academics. The research of the group is focused on the mechanism and intervention of cell death, inflammation and innate repair in acute kidney injury and potential chronic progression. The outcome of this research will have translational capacities in native kidneys and donor kidney preservation in humans.

In this post, you will work on a research project looking to evaluate the delivery of gene modifying agents to damaged cells and their effects on acute kidney injury, repair and chronic progression. The successful candidate will be accountable for the delivery of high standard research in the field of acute kidney injury, repair and full recovery or chronic progression with a particular focus on cell target delivery of gene modifying agents. 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 MRC programme.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

Research

- To undertake an investigative role in this MRC research project, taking responsibility for establishing mouse AKI, cell culture, and isolated kidney perfusion models of the planned research.
- To lead in the collection, evaluation and interpretation of the research data in different experimental models including design and performance, and work autonomously to attain project milestones.
- To contribute to the development of the choice of techniques, critiques, approaches, models and methods
- To contribute to the overall research programme using innovative research models, novel approaches and techniques.
- In agreement with the line manager, liaise with project collaborators to progress the research
- 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 co-author to journal/potential first author articles, review or technical papers, book chapter, which is assessed as internationally and world leading research as per the University Output Review Policy.
- 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.
- With the support of colleagues, identify opportunities to apply for fellowships and/or further project grants
- To provide guidance to other staff, academic visitors and students (involved in the research programme including BSc and PhD students).
- To actively seek opportunities to carry out multi-disciplinary research with other research groups at the University or stakeholders external to the University, with the approval of the Principal Investigator (PI).

Professional Development

- Duties and opportunities to engage in work that support your own professional development.

Impact and Knowledge Exchange

- Network and contribute to the maintaining and furthering of the wider research programme and research area
- To contribute to industry collaborations, as well as Patient and Public Involvement (PPI)
- 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, technicians and research students.

Internal and External Relationships

Regular meetings with members of the programme 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 including academic and industry partners

Exploring the potential patent and the clinical translation of research outcomes





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;
- Proven track record of delivering research to time and target

Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience

Essential

- PhD or equivalent (or near completion) in appropriate discipline or the equivalent professional qualification and demonstrable experience in an appropriate discipline *
- Evidence of a contribution to peer-reviewed journal research papers or equivalent e.g., technical report/writing review papers*
- Evidence of proven analytical problem-solving capability*
- Expertise in relevant approaches/biological models and analytical techniques and ability to develop new ones where required.

Desirable

- Experience with mouse/animal disease models with active licence (PIL)

Skills, Abilities and Competencies

Essential

- Willingness and ability to work and build relationships with internal and external collaborators and stakeholders.
- Evidence of continuous development of subject expertise.
- Excellent communication skills – written and verbal evidenced by the ability to communicate complex information*
- Proven analytical/technical problem-solving capability, and developing a theoretical framework to interpret results
- Evidence of constructing research papers, and contributing to successfully securing research funding where applicable
- Evidence of working effectively as part of a team and the ability to work independently*
- Working towards independence and ability to be involved and deliver collaborative research projects*
- Evidence and commitment to Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for yourself, and encourage commitment to learn and develop in others
- Ability to assess resource requirements, secure and organise resources effectively
- Coordinating with members of a research team, motivating and supporting each other





Desirable

- Budget/financial planning 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.

