



Job Title: Research Assistant
Grade: 6
Salary: £32,546 to £34,132 per annum, pro rata if part-time due to funding restrictions
Department: Respiratory Sciences
Hours/Contract: Full-time, or job share considered, fixed term contract from 02 June 2025 to 01 June 2028
Job Family: Teaching and Research
Reference: 11586

Role Purpose

This is a fixed term post to conduct research within a BBSRC-funded collaborative project between Molecular Cell Biology (MCB) Department and Respiratory Sciences department. The project is focused on investigation of non-homologous end joining (NHEJ) DNA-double strand break repair mechanism in *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (*Mtb*). The post holder will construct and characterize various mycobacterial strains to complement structural studies. The experimental approaches will include cultivation of mycobacteria, infection studies using murine cell lines, genetic manipulations, site-directed mutagenesis and kinase assays. The post holder will closely work and interact with the post-doctoral research associate in the MCB department, attend group research meetings and contribute to developing peer-reviewed journal articles and other outputs.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

Research

- To conduct research on (NHEJ) DNA-double strand break repair mechanism in *Mtb*
- To generate mutant strains of *Mtb* and *Mycobacterium smegmatis*, assess their phenotypes in various laboratory models, including infection studies using cell lines
- To carry out site directed mutagenesis and kinase assays, prepare samples for mass-spectrometry analysis
- To prepare reagents/media and order consumables for the project, maintain strain/primer/plasmid collections
- To support the day to day running of the project through interactions with PDRA, project investigators and laboratory members
- To summarise findings, record, and disseminate where appropriate to members of the research group
- Document the research findings, assessing the outcomes and options emerging from the research contributing as a junior partner to the writing and publication of research papers.
- To assist in supervision of experimental project students
- supervision of experimental project students

Professional Development:

- Duties and opportunities to engage in work that support your own professional development.
- To attend C3 user meeting and complete C3 work training tasks





Impact and Knowledge Exchange:

- Participate in workshops and conferences to support the dissemination of research findings.

Leadership and Citizenship:

- Contribute to the overall success of the research programme

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, including industry partners.

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 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

- Evidence of Honours degree and/or relevant experience *
- Practical experience and knowledge of applying research skills and techniques to deliver outputs on time and to the required quality.
- Experience of genetic manipulation and molecular work
- Prior experience of assessing bacterial viability*
- Laboratory safety awareness*

Desirable

- A PhD or currently studying for a PhD
- Masters qualification
- Prior experience of working with class 3 pathogens

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

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.

