



Job Title: Research Associate
Salary: £38,205 to £44,263 per annum
Grade: 7
Department: Cardiovascular Sciences
Hours/Contract: Full-time or job share, fixed term contract for one year (with possibility of extension subject to further funding)
Job Family: Teaching and Research
Job Reference: 9819

Role Purpose

In this position you will engage in a cutting-edge research project aimed at advancing our understanding of kidney disease through the execution of digital spatial transcriptomics and proteomics experiments. The successful candidate will have the unique opportunity to learn, apply, and become proficient in a comprehensive end-to-end pipeline, from experiment design to data analysis, within this emerging field. This role is critical in leveraging advanced technologies to uncover new insights into kidney disease pathology and potential therapeutic targets.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

Research

- Learning, developing and conducting digital spatial profiling experiments involving both proteomics and transcriptomics.
- Experiments involving immunofluorescence, polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and in-situ hybridisation
- Perform bioinformatic analysis with R.
- To lead in the collection, evaluation and interpretation of the research data in experimental design and performance, and work autonomously to attain project milestones.
- In agreement with the line manager, liaise with project collaborators to progress the research.
- You will work with the research leads to develop novel research questions, seek collaborators and obtain independent funding to execute future work.
- 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 articles, technical papers, monograph, book chapter.
- 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 and students (involved in the research programme).
- 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
- 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 and research students.

Internal and External Relationships

Regular meetings with members of the programme research group (University of Leicester IgAN 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

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;
- Be flexible to accommodate the demands of various digital spatial profiling protocols

Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience





Essential

- PhD or equivalent in appropriate discipline or the equivalent professional qualification and experience *
- Evidence of a contribution to peer-reviewed journal papers or equivalent e.g technical report/writing a piece of software *
- Evidence of proven analytical problem solving capability *
- Sound statistical and bioinformatics knowledge, with ability to program in R
- Should have at least 2 years experience with immunofluorescence, microscopy
- Should have experience with PCR and in situ hybridisation
- Have strong background in renal research with an intention to progress to be an independent researcher in this field
- Proven ability to project manage
- Ability to work with minimal supervision
- Expertise in relevant approaches/models and analytical techniques and ability to develop new ones where required.

Skills, Abilities and Competencies

Essential

- Willingness and ability to work with internal and external stakeholders*
- Evidence of continued development of subject expertise*
- Excellent communication skills – written and verbal evidenced by the ability to communicate complex information *
- Evidence of working effectively as part of a team and the ability to work independently *
- Working towards independence and ability to be involved in collaborative research
- Evidence and commitment to Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for yourself, and encourage commitment to learn and develop in others
- Collegiate member of a research team
- Flexibility to adapt to varying experimental protocols*

Desirable

- Budget management 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.

