Job Title: Research Associate (Bioinformatician)
Grade: 7
Salary: £33,518 - £38,833 per annum
Department: Genetics and Genome Biology
Hours/Contract: Full Time
Reference: 1215

Role Purpose
The post-holder will develop and carry out their own informatics research in one or more of the following bioinformatics research themes in the Department of Genetics and Genome Biology:

- Extending the data integration and visualisation capabilities of the world’s largest open genome-wide association study database, GWAS Central (www.gwascentral.org)
- Developing methods, software and interfaces for genotype and phenotype data discovery
- Using semantics and ontologies to integrate and compare biomedical data

Main Duties and Responsibilities

The Research Associate will be expected to take a leading role in determining the direction of bioinformatics research activities in line with agreed informatics goals, whilst also providing guidance and support to other members of the bioinformatics team. Specifically, they will be expected:

- To plan and carry out an advanced informatics activities, using methodology and techniques appropriate to this type of research
- To analyse data and extrapolate new themes/strands in the relevant areas of research
- To lead the work of the bioinformatics team (i.e. PhD students and technicians) including prioritisation of tasks
- To write up research findings for dissemination amongst the research team and broader international community
- To take a lead in presenting results at scientific meetings in the UK and overseas
- To participate in basic system admin to ensure the efficient functioning of Leicester’s bioinformatics software and websites
- To train and supervise new bioinformatics staff members, including undergraduate students and work experience trainees
- To undertake other such duties consistent with the grade of the post as may be reasonably required

% Time

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Internal and External Relationships

- Weekly meetings with line manager
- Collaborators in this and other universities, and with external funding bodies including the EU
- Academics, postdocs, PhD students, and technicians within the research groups to liaise on a daily basis regarding availability of equipment and materials, exchange of information
- Other 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. This includes:

- Prioritise tasks within agreed work schedule
- 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
- Be flexible to the changing priorities of the research project
- Plan several months ahead to meet project deadlines and to prepare abstracts and presentations for conferences

**Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience**

**Essential**

- Technical, technology/engineering or scientific degree.
- Full understanding of a broad and/or complex technical or scientific field.
- In possession of or working towards a professional qualification.
- PhD in Bioinformatics or computer science, or soon to be completed.*
- Skills in at least one of Perl, PHP and/or Python, and the ability to learn new programming skills as required.*
- Experience deploying and maintaining relational databases such as MySQL or PostGres.*
- Evidence of research productivity (e.g. research publications in peer review journals, presentations, etc).
- Evidence of involvement in innovative research.
- Knowledge of research field.*
- Experience in research field.*
- Good background in biomedical research or data management.*
- Highly computer literate.*
- Evidence of continued personal development of subject expertise.

**Desirable**

- Experience using bio-ontologies.
- Experience in supervising students.
- Experience in presenting results at national/international meetings.

**Skills, Abilities and Competencies**

**Essential**

- Ability to work well in a team.
- Prepared to be based at different University sites, as collaborations require.
- Good written* and oral communication skills.
- Ability to plan, implement and deliver programmes of work.
Job Summary

- Ability to communicate complex information clearly.
- Effective planning and organisational skills.
- Able to prioritise, plan, organise and deliver a programme of work effectively and to the required standard.
- Ability to demonstrate research potential and enthusiasm of the subject area and deliver high quality research.

Desirable
- Effective interpersonal skills.
- The ability to demonstrate leadership skills throughout the team including problem solving (e.g. methodology and techniques).

*Criteria to be used in shortlisting candidates for interview*

VITAL

The University encourages all staff to live our VITAL values which are: Valuing People, Innovators, Together, Accountable, Leaders.

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.