



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in Chemical Biology and Synthesis,
School of Chemistry



Salary: Grade 7 (£32,548 – £38,833 p.a.)

Due to external funding restrictions, appointment will only be made up to £33,518

Reference: MAPCH1090

Closing date: 11 June 2018

Fixed-term for 24 months, from 1 October 2018

We will consider job share/flexible working arrangements

Research Fellow in Chemical Biology and Synthesis

School of Chemistry, Faculty of Mathematics and Physical Sciences

Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have an established background in chemical biology and synthetic organic chemistry? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive universities?

We are looking for an exceptional researcher to work on our project 'Phenotype-directed emergence of unnatural products', with [Professor Adam Nelson](#) and [Dr Megan Wright](#), that has been funded by the Leverhulme Trust. The aim of the project is to discover new bioactive compounds by mimicking aspects of the evolution of biosynthetic pathways that is driven by functional benefit to the host organism: discovery will be phenotype-driven, and should yield unnatural products that are inaccessible to nature. We will also investigate whether, like natural products, these unnatural products can be developed into chemical tools for identifying their associated protein targets. The programme builds on activity-directed synthesis, our novel approach that enables the discovery of bioactive small molecules.

Within the role, you will develop and integrate high-throughput discovery approaches, working in close collaboration with chemists at Leeds and biologists at the University of St Andrews. You will exemplify the resulting approaches, demonstrating its value in disruptive molecular discovery. The position will additionally provide tailored opportunities to support your professional development, for example in grant-writing, teaching and networking.

You will have a PhD in Synthetic Chemistry, Chemical Biology or a closely aligned discipline, together with experience of parallel synthetic chemistry and performing biological assays. You'll also have excellent communication skills and the ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines.

What does the role entail?

As a Research Fellow your main duties will include:

- Designing, planning and conducting a programme of research, in consultation with Professor Adam Nelson and Dr Megan Wright;



- Generating independent and original research ideas and methods to enable the phenotype-directed discovery of bioactive small molecules;
- Making a significant contribution to the dissemination of research results by publication in leading peer-reviewed journals, and by presentation at national and international meetings;
- Working independently and as part of a larger team of chemistry and biology researchers;
- Contributing to the supervision of PhD and MChem students and acting as a mentor to less experienced colleagues;
- Evaluating methods and techniques used and results obtained by other researchers and relating such evaluations to your own research;
- Contributing to, and encouraging, a safe working environment.

These duties provide a framework for the role and should not be regarded as a definitive list. Other reasonable duties may be required consistent with the grade of the post.

What will you bring to the role?

As a Research Fellow you will have:

- A PhD in Synthetic Chemistry, Chemical Biology or a closely allied discipline;
- Experience of bioactive small molecule synthesis, and the ability to perform high-throughput chemistry in parallel;
- A good background knowledge of, and enthusiasm for, research at the chemistry/biology interface;
- The ability to design, execute and write up chemical biology/synthetic chemistry research independently;
- A developing track record of peer reviewed publications in international journals;
- Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal and the ability to communicate your research at national and international conferences;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines;
- A proven ability to work well both independently and as part of a team;
- The ability to work accurately and carefully;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development.



How to apply

You can apply for this role online; more guidance can be found on our [How to Apply](#) information page. Applications should be submitted by **23:59** (UK time) on the advertised closing date. As part of your online application, please include a statement of your research interests (optional) and your CV.

Contact information

To explore the post further or for any queries you may have, please contact:

Professor Adam Nelson, Professor of Chemical Biology

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 6502

Email: A.S.Nelson@leeds.ac.uk

Additional information

Our research

Further information about our research can be found at the websites of the [Nelson group](#) and the [Astbury Centre for Structural Molecular Biology](#).

Working at Leeds

Find out more about the benefits of working at the University and what it is like to live and work in the Leeds area on our [Working at Leeds](#) information page.

A diverse workforce

The Faculty of Mathematics and Physical Sciences is proud to have been awarded the [Athena SWAN Bronze Award](#) from the Equality Challenge Unit, the national body that promotes equality in the higher education sector. Our [equality and inclusion webpage](#) provides more information.

Candidates with disabilities

Information for candidates with disabilities, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found on our [Accessibility](#) information page or by getting in touch with us at disclosure@leeds.ac.uk.



Criminal record information

Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

A criminal record check is not required for this position, however, all applicants will be required to declare if they have any 'unspent' criminal offences, including those pending.

Any offer of appointment will be in accordance with our Criminal Records policy. You can find out more about required checks and declarations on our [Criminal Records](#) information page.

