



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

## CANDIDATE BRIEF

**Early-Stage Researcher – Activities of Daily Living, European Training Network – Nu-Spine, Faculty of Engineering**



**Salary: In line with the Marie Skłodowska-Curie ITN requirements for Early Stage Researchers**

**Reference: ENGME1169**

**Closing date: 06 January 2019**

**Fixed-term for 3 years**

**We will consider flexible working arrangements**

# Early-Stage Researcher

## Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Network (ITN): Nu-Spine

### School of Mechanical Engineering

**Are you a rising star in the field of medical engineering, tribology or material science? Would you like to contribute to the development of cutting-edge medical technology in the spine? Do you want to further your career and attain a PhD in one of the UK's leading research intensive universities?**

You will join a recently funded European Training Network (ETN) Nu-Spine (project ID 812765, call H2020-MSCA-ITN-2018). Nu-Spine offers high-level doctoral training to a total of 15 Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) of which 4 will be employed at the University of Leeds. The project lead is [Prof Cecilia Persson](#) at the University of Uppsala who was previously a Marie Curie ESR in Leeds.

This ESR position is based in Leeds and will focus on the development of adverse testing for total disc replacements. Such a system will test these artificial discs in a manner that is more rigorous and challenges the device more acutely across representative activities of daily living (ADL). The project will initially be based in the NIHR Leeds Biomedical Research Centre where the motion of the spine will be measured for different ADLs. ADL profiles will then be transferred to simulator technologies for testing artificial joints. This project will be supervised by Profs [Richard M Hall](#) and [Anthony Redmond](#) in collaboration with several other researchers across the network.

#### **Important eligibility rules for this position:**

There are no restrictions on the nationality, but

- Applicants must, at the time of recruitment, have not yet been awarded a doctorate degree and be in the first 4 years (full-time equivalent) of their research careers. This is measured from the date that you obtained the degree which would entitle you to embark on a PhD.
- At the time of recruitment, applicants must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc...) in the UK for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to their recruitment under the QCALL project.



Compulsory national service and/or short stays such as holidays are not taken into account.

### **Salary:**

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Early Stage Researcher living allowance is fixed at **€62,057** per annum including the mobility allowance. This figure is before employer's and employee's deductions for national insurance and taxes per year, which will be paid in Sterling using an appropriate conversion rate.

### **Interviews**

It is anticipated that the interviews for this post will take place on January 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> 2019 at the [University of Uppsala](#) in Sweden. The role will be based at the [University of Leeds](#) in the UK.

## **What does the role entail?**

As an Early Stage Researcher your main duties will include:

- Learning skills so you are able to produce world-class research focussed on spinal biomechanics, total disc replacement and activities of daily living;
- Developing initiative, creativity and judgement in applying appropriate approaches to research activities;
- Actively participate in all relevant activities organised by the network as advised by the Supervisor;
- Attending meetings as required to discuss the project. This will involve occasional EU-wide travel;
- Ensuring good day-to-day progress of work, and maintaining accurate records;
- Writing up results for publication, attending and presenting at suitable conferences and undertaking other forms of dissemination including patient groups and the general public;
- Working both independently and also as part of a larger team of researchers, including interacting with and providing assistance to other staff in the research group and the Nu-Spine network and engaging in knowledge-transfer activities where appropriate and feasible;
- Contributing to joint discussions within the wider research group and network;
- Maintaining your own continuing professional development.



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 an Early Stage Researcher you will have:

- A top-class undergraduate degree and/or a Masters degree, or equivalent, in Mechanical Engineering or equivalent;
- Satisfy the eligibility requirements set for an Early Stage Researcher funded by Marie Skłodowska-Curie and you must be eligible to be appointed as an Early Stage Researcher in the UK - this means:
  - At the time of recruitment, you must not already hold a doctorate degree and you must be in the first 4 years of your research career (measured from the date of obtaining the degree which entitles you to embark on PhD studies)
  - At the time of recruitment, you must not have resided or carried out your main activity in the UK for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to your start date;
- Satisfy the [eligibility requirements](#) to enrol on a PhD degree. This includes acceptable English language requirements if English is not your first language.
- Research experience with at least one of these areas: Medical Engineering; Biomechanics; Orthopaedics or Tribology;
- The flexibility to travel throughout the EU;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines and work effectively under pressure;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills including presentation skills;
- Proven ability to manage competing demands effectively, responsibly and without close support;
- A proven ability to work well both individually and in a team;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development.

You may also have:

- Evidence of a track record in peer-reviewed publications and/or conference dissemination.



## 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](#).

## Contact information

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

**[Prof Richard M Hall](#)**, Professor, School of Mechanical Engineering, University of Leeds

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Email: [r.m.hall@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:r.m.hall@leeds.ac.uk)

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## Additional information

### Faculty and School Information

Further information is available on the research and teaching activities of the [Faculty of Engineering](#) and the [School of Mechanical Engineering](#), [NIHR Leeds Biomedical Research Centre](#), the [Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine](#) and the [Marie Skłodowska-Curie](#) research and innovation scheme.

### A diverse workforce

The Faculty of Engineering is proud to have been awarded the [Athena Swan Silver 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.

### 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.



### **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](mailto: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 in our [Criminal Records](#) information page.

