



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in Lectin Biochemistry, Faculty of Biological Sciences



Salary: Grade 7 (£33,199 – £39,609 p.a.)

Reference: FBSBM1123

Closing date: 14 August 2019

Fixed-term for 24 months

We will consider flexible working arrangements

Research Fellow in Lectin Biochemistry

School of Biomedical Sciences

Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have an established background in lectin biochemistry? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive Universities?

Perineuronal nets (PNNs) are hierarchical assemblies of neural extracellular matrix and are crucial in regulating neuroplasticity. PNNs are enriched in glycosaminoglycans including chondroitin sulphates and hyaluronan. Removal of PNNs enhances functional recovery after spinal cord injury, memory retention in ageing and Alzheimer's disease model. While researchers have been focused on developing tools to modulate PNNs and their functions, tools in visualising PNN *in vivo* is still lacking. We aim to combine glycobiology, lectin biochemistry, molecular biology, structural biology and biophysics to design *in vivo* probes of labelling PNNs. The success of the project will facilitate the translation of PNN modulator in enhancing functional recovery after central nervous system pathologies.

To apply for this role you will need a PhD or be close to completion, in glycobiology, biochemistry, structural biology, or a closely allied discipline and have previous experience in lectin biochemistry, molecular biology or PNN labelling.

The University of Leeds and the Faculty of Biological Sciences are committed to providing equal opportunities for all and offer a range of family friendly policies. The University is a charter member of Athena SWAN (the national body that promotes gender equality in higher education), and the Faculty of Biological Sciences was reawarded a Bronze award in 2017. We are proud to be an inclusive Faculty that values all staff, and are happy to consider job share applications and requests for flexible working arrangements from our employees. Our Athena SWAN [webpage](#) provides more information.

What does the role entail?

As a Research Fellow your main duties will include:

- Designing, planning and conducting a programme of investigation, in consultation with [Dr Jessica Kwok](#);



- Generating independent and original research ideas and methods in lectin biochemistry with an aim to extend the Kwok Lab research portfolio;
- 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 researchers , both internally and externally to develop new research links and collaborations and engage in knowledge transfer activities where appropriate;
- Contributing to the supervision of junior researchers and PhD 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;
- To contribute to, and to encourage, 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 (or be near to completion, meaning after the student has handed in the initial version of their thesis) in glycobiology, biochemistry, structural biology, or a closely allied discipline;
- Experience in lectin biochemistry, molecular biology or PNN labelling;
- Strong analytical skills, with the ability to work accurately and carefully, designing, executing and writing up 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;
- The ability to work well both independently and as part of a team;
- Strong initiative and a pro-active approach, with excellent organisational, planning and self-management skills, including the ability to prioritise workloads to meet deadlines/demand and deliver high quality under pressure;



- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development.

You may also have:

- Experience in soft matter biophysics or cell biology;
- Evidence of pursuing external funding to support research.

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.

Your application should include:

- A supporting statement providing evidence to support each requirement listed on the 'What will you bring to the role' section of the Candidate Brief (no more than two sides of A4, minimum font size 11);
- An academic curriculum vitae, including a list of your publications.

Contact information

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

[Dr Jessica Kwok](#), University Academic Fellow in the School of Biomedical Sciences

Tel: +44 (0)113 34 39802

Email: j.kwok@leeds.ac.uk

Additional information

Find out more about the [Faculty of Biological Sciences](#) and the [School of Biomedical Sciences](#)



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.

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.

