



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Early-Stage Researcher – Tribology of the Facet Joint, European Training Network – Nu-Spine, Faculty of Engineering



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

Reference: ENGME1212

Closing date: 04 August 2019

Fixed-term for three 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 mechanical engineering, tribology or material science with experimental experience? 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 at 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 facet joint tribology including the preliminary design of a facet joint system and its testing. This project will be supervised by [Prof Richard M Hall](#), [Prof Anne Neville](#) and [Dr Michael Bryant](#), 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 Nu-Spine 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.

What does the role entail?

As an Early Stage Researcher your main duties will include:

- Developing the skills to enable world class research to be produced, focusing on tribology, mechanical engineering and medical device testing;
- Developing initiative, creativity and judgement in applying appropriate approaches to research activities;
- Actively participating 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 or an interest in one or more of these areas: Mechanical Engineering, Tribology Orthopaedics and Design;
- 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;
- 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 being able to publish research in high quality journals and 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

Email: r.m.hall@leeds.ac.uk

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](#) 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.

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.

