



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Assistant, Faculty of Medicine and Health



Salary: Grade 6 (£27,511– £32,817 p.a.)

Fixed term from 1 November 2019 until 31 March 2020

Reference: MHLCM1195

Closing date: 26 September 2019

Interviews will be held on Monday 14 October 2019

Research Assistant

Faculty of Medicine and Health

Leeds Institute of Cardiovascular & Metabolic Medicine

Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have a background in microfluidics and single cell functional genomic analysis of reproductive cells? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research-intensive Universities?

We are looking to recruit a full time Research Assistant to provide high quality laboratory support to project funded by an ESRC Impact Acceleration Award. The research will investigate the compatibility of time-lapse imaging and nanosensor integration with microfluidic culture of embryos as a means to improve the efficacy infertility treatment. This funding for this project has been awarded to Professor Helen Picton who leads the Reproduction and Early Development Research Group within the Leeds Institute of Cardiovascular and Metabolic Medicine in the School of Medicine at Leeds University. The project will be conducted in collaboration with Dr Virginia Pensabene and Dr Paolo Actis from the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering at Leeds University.

Applicants should hold a PhD (or close to completion, meaning, submitted initial version of thesis at point of application) in a subject relevant to reproductive biology and/or metabolism which is supported by extensive laboratory experience and a broad technical skill base in assisted reproduction technologies, gamete and embryo culture, metabolomics and single cell molecular biology.

What does the role entail?

As Research Assistant your main duties will include:

- Working with and in support of Prof Helen Picton's research grant to ensure the project is successfully completed;
- Generating and pursuing original research ideas in the field of reproductive biology and assisted reproduction technology, microfluidics, nanosensors, and functional genomic analysis of individual reproductive cells.



- Writing reports, undertaking literature reviews and preparing papers for publication, with guidance as necessary;
- Working both independently and as part of a larger team of researchers and stakeholders;
- Supporting research activities, including contributing to research results and outputs and to the generation of independent and original ideas, ensuring a successful programme of investigation;
- Collating and analysing data;
- Participating in the research group and presenting research output where appropriate;
- Communicating or presenting research results through publication or other recognised forms of output;
- Contributing to the research culture of the School, where appropriate;
- Continually updating your knowledge, understanding and skills in the research field.

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.

You will report to Professor Helen Picton, Professor in Reproduction and Early Development

What will you bring to the role?

As Research Assistant you will have:

- A first degree and PhD (or close to completion, meaning, submitted initial version of thesis at point of application) in Reproductive Biology or a closely allied discipline;
- A strong background in reproductive biology, assisted reproduction technology, preimplantation embryology, single cell functional genomics;
- Experience of microfluidics and nanosensors;
- Demonstrated experience of conducting research;
- Good interpersonal and communication skills, both written and verbal and the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of stakeholders;
- Well-developed analytical skills;



- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines;
- A proven ability to work well both individually and in a team;
- The ability to work unsupervised and to use your own initiative.

You may also have:

- Experience of working with nanosensors and microfluidics.
- A track record of successful, high quality, publications in reproductive biology.

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:

Professor Helen Picton

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 7817

Email: H.M.Picton@leeds.ac.uk

Additional information

Find out more about the [Faculty of Medicine and Health](#)

Find out more about [Leeds Institute of Cardiovascular and Metabolic Medicine \(LICAMM\)](#).

Find out more about [Athena Swan](#) in the Faculty.

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.

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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.

