



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

## CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in Membrane Protein Biotechnology,  
Faculty of Biological Sciences



**Salary: Grade 7 (£33,797 – £40,322 p.a.)**

**Due to funding restrictions, it is unlikely an appointment will be made above £33,797 p.a.**

**Reference: FBSBM1130**

**Closing date: 21 October 2019**

**Available from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020. Fixed-term for up to 36 Months.**

# Research Fellow in Membrane Protein Biotechnology

## School of Biomedical Sciences

**Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have an established background in bioelectrochemistry, soft matter and/or membrane biology? Do you want to further your career in one of the UKs leading research intensive Universities?**

**Project Title:** Hybrid lipid-polymer membranes to extend the lifetime of hydrogenase in bioelectrocatalysis

We are seeking an enthusiastic and motivated researcher to work on a project aiming to exploit membrane enzymes for applications in bioelectrocatalysis, in particular for bioenergy related applications such as biofuel cells. Our aim is supported by our recent results, which show that 'cheap-to-produce' crude membrane extracts are suitable catalyst systems and that amphiphilic polymers, are able to induce an unprecedented improvement in biocatalyst stability. You will work with enzymes like membrane-bound hydrogenase, to create a cheap and robust enzyme-based hydrogen-air fuel cell. Our technology, will advance the area of industrial biomanufacturing and open up the use of membrane enzymes in biocatalysis and in particularly, bioelectrocatalysis.

This BBSRC-funded project is a collaboration between the University of Leeds and colleagues at the Technical University of Berlin and Ruhr University of Bochum, Germany. You will be based in a multidisciplinary biophysics research team, supervised by [Prof. Lars Jeuken](#), within the Faculty of Biological Sciences at Leeds, and by [Dr. Paul Beales](#) in the School of Chemistry.

You should have, or be close to completing a PhD in a relevant subject (e.g. chemistry, biochemistry, physics); the successful applicant will have a background in bioinorganic chemistry, soft matter, bioelectrochemistry and/or membrane proteins and be able to work effectively both independently and within a multidisciplinary team.

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 [Prof. Lars Jeuken](#) and [Dr. Paul Beales](#);
- Generating independent and original research ideas and methods in membrane protein electrocatalysis with an aim to extend the research portfolios of the Jeuken and Beales groups;
- 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 near to completion meaning after the student has handed in the initial version of their thesis) in chemistry, biochemistry, biophysics or a closely allied discipline;
- Experience in metallo/redox enzymes or membrane proteins;



- 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 bioinorganic chemistry, soft matter, model membranes, bioelectrochemistry or surface analyses of biointerfaces;
- 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:

[Lars Jeuken, Professor of Molecular Biophysics](#)

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 3829

Email: [L.J.C.Jeuken@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:L.J.C.Jeuken@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](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.

