



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

## CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in RNA biology, Faculty of Biological Sciences



**Salary: Grade 7 (£33,797 – £40,322 p.a.)** Due to funding limitations it is unlikely an appointment will be made above £36,914 p.a.

**Reference: FBSMB1169**

**Closing date: 29 November 2019**

**Available from 01 December 2019, fixed-term for 12 months.**

**We will consider job share and flexible working arrangements**

## Research Fellow in RNA Biology School of Molecular and Cellular Biology

**Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have an established background in RNA biology? Are you keen to develop new skills in both research approaches and group leadership? Do you want to further your career in one of the UKs leading research intensive Universities?**

We are seeking an ambitious scientist to join a dynamic research group pursuing RNA research to address key questions in translational control and lncRNA functions. The position is to provide support for an academic lead taking maternity leave. In addition to RNA research this role involves mentoring of PhD students and some group management. This position would be an excellent career development opportunity for an outstanding RNA biologist to learn key skills on how to run a group with time and flexibility to write fellowships. The group use a combination of biochemical, genomic, genetic, and structural approaches to tackle important, outstanding questions in mRNA translation and lncRNA function. The successful applicant would help supervise the research group and will join a vibrant research community within the Faculty of Biological Sciences at Leeds, including LeedsOmics and the Astbury Centre for Structural Biology.

You should have a PhD in RNA biology with a strong background in mRNA translation, lncRNA biology or RNA-protein complexes. Experience in biochemical purification of RNA-protein complexes, *Drosophila melanogaster* husbandry and genetics, analysis of RNA-Seq or similar data, structural biology, genomics would be desirable.

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. <http://www.fbs.leeds.ac.uk/equality-and-diversity/athena-swan/>



## What does the role entail?

As a Research Fellow your main duties will include:

- Designing, planning and conducting a programme of research, in consultation with [Dr Julie Aspden](#);
- Generating independent and original research ideas and methods in RNA biology;
- Leading and contributing to scientific discussions within the research team during group meetings, journal clubs and project meetings;
- Contributing to the supervision of junior researchers and PhD students, and acting as a mentor to less experienced colleagues;
- Helping to manage financial resources;
- Working with collaborators to drive research forward;
- Keeping up-to-date with relevant literature and attending seminars;
- Making a significant contribution to the dissemination of research results by generating publications in leading peer-reviewed journals, and by presenting work at national and international meetings;
- Attending courses and workshops to improve skills and personal development;
- 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;
- Evaluating methods and techniques used, and results obtained by other researchers, and relating such evaluations to your own research;
- Contributing to, and encouraging, 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 Postdoctoral Research Fellow you will have:

- A PhD in RNA biology;
- Strong background in mRNA translation, lncRNA biology or RNA-protein complexes;



- Drive to pursue cutting-edge research in the field of RNA biology using a range of approaches (e.g. biochemical, genetic, genomic and structural);
- An interest in developing group leadership skills;
- Experience in responding to reviewers' comments on manuscripts;
- Aptitude for computational analysis e.g. NGS analysis;
- The ability to design, execute and write up research independently;
- A developing track record of peer reviewed publications in international journals;
- The ability to provide constructive feedback on scientific written work (e.g. abstracts).
- Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal;
- The ability to communicate your research at national and international conferences;
- Track record of collaborating;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines;
- Strong analytical skills and aptitude for problem solving with the ability to work accurately and carefully;
- A proven ability to work well both independently and as part of a team;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development.

You may also have:

- Experience in biochemical purification of RNA-protein complexes, *Drosophila melanogaster* husbandry and genetics, analysis of RNA-Seq or similar data, structural biology, genomics;
- Experience in management of research projects, and assisting more junior researchers in developing research skills, and in scientific writing for publication.
- Programming skills and experience with HPC;
- Evidence of pursuing external funding to support research;
- Experience in public engagement and/or outreach.

## 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 Julie Aspden](#), University Academic Fellow in Pervasive Transcription**

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 9607

Email: [j.aspden@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:j.aspden@leeds.ac.uk)

## Additional information

To find out more about

- The [Aspden Group](#).
- [LeedsOmics](#)
- [The Astbury Centre for Structural Biology](#)
- [The School of Molecular and Cellular Biology](#)
- [The Faculty of Biological Sciences](#)
- Our Research and associated [facilities](#).
- Our Faculty [Equality and Inclusion](#) initiatives including [Athena Swan](#).

## 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.

