



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

**Research Fellow in High-Throughput Synthesis and Chemical Biology,
Faculty of Engineering & Physical Sciences**



Salary: Grade 7 (£33,797 – £40,322 p.a.). Due to funding restrictions an appointment will not be made above £34,804 p.a.

Reference: EPSCH1009

Closing date: 06 January 2020

Fixed term until 30 September 2021

We will consider job share / flexible working arrangements

Research Fellow in High-Throughput Synthesis and Chemical Biology, School of Chemistry.

Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have an established background in chemical biology and synthetic organic chemistry? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive universities?

We are looking for an exceptional researcher to work on our project 'Autonomous Discovery of Functional Small Molecules', with [Professor Adam Nelson](#) and [Dr Stuart Warriner](#), in alignment with Professor Nelson's EPSRC Established Career Fellowship. The aim of the research programme is to develop and exemplify new methods that may be exploited in the autonomous discovery of bioactive small molecules. The programme builds on activity-directed synthesis, our novel approach that enables the discovery of bioactive small molecules. This approach exploits synthetic methods with inherently unpredictable outcomes to enable the discovery of unexpected chemotypes in parallel with associated synthetic routes.

Within the role, you will develop and integrate high-throughput synthetic and biological methods, working in collaboration with chemists and biologists. You will exemplify the resulting technology platform, demonstrating using exemplar target proteins its value in facilitating disruptive molecular discovery. The position will additionally provide tailored opportunities to support your professional development, for example in grant-writing, teaching and networking.

You will have a PhD in chemical biology or bioactive molecule synthesis, or a closely aligned discipline, together with experience of bioactive small molecule synthesis, and the ability to perform high-throughput synthesis and chemical biology research. You'll also have excellent communication skills and the ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines.

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 Professor Adam Nelson and Dr Stuart Warriner;



- Generating and pursuing independent and original research ideas to enable the activity-directed discovery of bioactive small molecules;
- Developing research objectives and proposals and contributing to setting the direction of the research project and team including preparing proposals for funding in collaboration with colleagues;
- Evaluating methods and techniques used and results obtained by other researchers and to relate such evaluations appropriately to your own work;
- Preparing papers for publication in leading international journals and disseminating research results through other recognised forms of output;
- Working both independently and also as part of a larger team of researchers, engaging in knowledge-transfer activities where appropriate and feasible;
- Maintaining your own continuing professional development and acting as a mentor to less experienced colleagues as appropriate;
- Contributing to the training of both undergraduate and postgraduate students, including assisting with the supervision of projects in areas relevant to the project.

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 have submitted your thesis before taking up the role) in chemical biology or bioactive molecule synthesis or a closely allied discipline;
- A strong background in and enthusiasm for, research at the chemistry/biology interface;
- Experience of bioactive small molecule synthesis, and the ability to perform high-throughput synthesis and chemical biology research;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines, manage competing demands and work effectively under pressure without close support;
- A proven track record of peer-reviewed publications in high impact factor journals;
- 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:

- Experience of pursuing external funding to support research;
- Experience of parallel synthetic chemistry and/or assay optimisation/execution.

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 Adam Nelson](#), Professor of Chemical Biology

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 6502

Email: A.S.Nelson@leeds.ac.uk

Additional information

Our research

Further information about our research can be found at the websites of the [Nelson group](#) and the [Astbury Centre for Structural Molecular Biology](#).

A diverse workforce

The Schools in the Faculty of Engineering & Physical Sciences are proud to have been awarded the Athena SWAN [Bronze](#) or [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.

