



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

## CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Assistant, Leeds Institute of Medical Research at St James's,  
Faculty of Medicine and Health



**Salary: Grade 6 (£27,511 – £32,817 pro rata per annum)**

**Reference: MHLRM1008**

**Closing date: 21 February 2020**

**Fixed-term for 3 years at 80% FTE**

**We are happy to consider job share applications and are committed to flexible working for all our employees.**

**Research Assistant**  
**School of Medicine**  
**Leeds Institute of Medical Research at St James's**  
**Division of Haematology and Immunology**

**Are you an early career researcher looking for your first challenge? Do you have a background in haematological malignancies or expression profiling and RNA-seq? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive Universities and aligned to a clinical diagnostic environment?**

We are looking for an enthusiastic and highly-motivated individual to work in a team as part of a multi-centre laboratory programme aimed at developing a diagnostic platform for precision medicine in lymphoma.

Your main role will be carrying out a range of laboratory techniques which will include gene expression profiling and RNA sequencing from primary patient samples. You will be responsible for day to day molecular analysis of samples acquired as part of a collaboration between the Haematological Malignancy Diagnostic Service (HMDS) at St. James University Hospital (Leeds), and the Universities of Southampton, Oxford, Cambridge and Queen Mary (London).

The work will involve handling and processing of biological samples, extraction of nucleic acids from patient samples, and analysis mainly using gene expression analysis including RNA-seq. You will be expected to perform laboratory assays to a high standard and critically review results, particularly with regard to quality.

You will be responsible for the accurate maintenance of all samples, records and findings, working in line with standard operating procedures, information governance, defined protocols and ethical guidelines. As agreed with the research team, you will organise your own workload, and work both independently and as a part of the team, liaising with colleagues and staff within the University and the NHS.



You will be qualified to a degree level (or be about to submit a thesis for examination) in a relevant subject or hold equivalent qualifications and have experience of a laboratory environment. You will also have prior experience or knowledge of gene expression analysis and sequencing. Knowledge of the biology of leukaemia and lymphoma would be an advantage.

The post is based at St James's University Hospital, as part of the Division of Haematology and Immunology of the Leeds Institute of Medical Research at St. James's, with your work based in the Haematological Malignancy Diagnostic Service (HMDS) of Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. Consequently the post requires close collaboration with other laboratory staff in the department and with those engaged in the bioinformatics components of the project.

This is a new post funded by Bloodwise that will be available for a fixed term of 3 years at 80% fte, and be based in HMDS at St James's University Hospital, Bexley Wing, Leeds.

## **What does the role entail?**

As Research Assistant your main duties will include:

- Handling and processing of biological samples from people with haematological malignancies;
- Extraction of RNA and DNA from various sample types for examples, peripheral blood, paraffin blocks and bone marrow aspirates;
- Analysis of samples using gene expression analysis approaches in particular RNA-seq;
- Archiving and organising samples accurately;
- Working in line with standard operating procedures, information governance and ethical guidelines governing the study
- Writing reports, undertaking literature reviews and preparing papers for publication, with guidance as necessary;
- Evaluating methods and techniques used and results obtained by other researchers and to relate such evaluations appropriately to your own work
- Working 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;
- Participating in the research group and presenting research output where appropriate;
- Contributing to the research culture of the School, where appropriate;
- Continually updating your knowledge, understanding and skills in the research field.
- As HMDS is an NHS environment and you will be expected to fully comply with NHS working practices, particularly with respect to information governance and health and safety. An honorary NHS contract will be required.

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 directly to Dr Sharon Barrans, Clinical Scientist in HMDS and be responsible to Professor Reuben Tooze, Professor of Haematology

## What will you bring to the role?

As Research Assistant you will have:

- A first degree/Masters/PhD in the subject area or a closely allied discipline;
- Good understanding of biological concepts and processes;
- Understanding of haematology and/or cancer biology;
- Experience of good laboratory practice;
- Good laboratory skills including various molecular techniques;
- Experience of gene expression analysis;
- Experience of safe handling of human blood and tissue samples;
- 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.



## 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:

### Dr Sharon Barrans

Tel: (0113) 2067851; Email: [Sharon.barrans@nhs.net](mailto:Sharon.barrans@nhs.net)

### Professor Reuben Tooze

Tel: (0113) 34 38639; Email: [R.Tooze@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:R.Tooze@leeds.ac.uk)

## Additional information

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

Find out more about [Leeds Institute of Medical Research at St James's](#)

The Institute and its facilities are predominantly based on the [St James's University Hospitals Campus](#) although some teams are also located on the [University of Leeds' main campus](#).

Find out more about our Research and associated facilities. <http://hmds.info/>

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](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.

