



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in skeletal muscle biology, Faculty of Biological Sciences.



Salary: Grade 7 (£33,797 – £40,322 p.a.) Please note due to funding restrictions it is unlikely that any appointment will be made above £33,797.

Reference: FBSBM1139

Available from 1st April 2020 on a fixed-term contract for 2 years

Research Fellow in skeletal muscle biology School of Biomedical Sciences

Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have an established background in skeletal muscle biology? Do you want to further your career in one of the UKs leading research intensive Universities?

You will be embedded within a vibrant and translational research team, working alongside clinicians and scientists, to better understand the molecular mechanisms of skeletal muscle atrophy in chronic heart failure. This project will specifically combine experiments in both humans and animal models, to investigate basic molecular mechanisms of muscle atrophy in heart failure. The successful candidate will be integrated into an internationally leading team of researchers in the areas of muscle biology ([Dr Scott Bowen](#) and [Dr Lee Roberts](#)) and cardiology ([Dr Sarah Calaghan](#) and [Dr Klaus Witte](#)), linking both in vitro and in vivo molecular and functional muscle measurements.

To apply for this role you must have a PhD (or be close to completion) in biomedical science or a closely allied discipline. You will also have a background in skeletal muscle biology, alongside strong molecular/cell biology techniques for detection of protein (western blotting) and gene expression (qPCR), with prior experience working with primary human cell culture beneficial. Prior experience handling animals and working with disease models is essential.

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 [Dr Scott Bowen](#);
- Generating independent and original research ideas and methods in muscle biology with an aim to extend the *Cardiovascular and Sports and Exercise Sciences* and *Cardiovascular and Metabolic Medicine* research portfolio;
- 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;
- To independently lead and organise, ongoing animal experiments.

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 close to completion) in biomedical science or a closely allied discipline;
- Experience in skeletal muscle biology alongside strong molecular/cell biology techniques for detection of protein (western blotting) and gene expression (qPCR);
- Prior experience handling animals and working with disease models;



- 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:

- Evidence of pursuing external funding to support research;
- Prior experience working with primary human cell cultures.

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 Scott Bowen, Lecturer in Exercise Physiology](#)

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 3834

Email: T.S.Bowen@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.

Security checks

Appointment to this post will be subject to appropriate security checks being carried out with your permission by a third party company

Criminal record information

Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975

This post requires a basic criminal record check from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), and any equivalent overseas authorities where relevant. The successful candidate will be required to give consent for the University to check their criminal record status. All applicants are required to make a self-declaration where applicable.

