



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in Molecular Cancer 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 £33,797.

Reference: FBSMB1174

Fixed-term for 8 months

We will consider flexible working arrangements

Research Fellow in Molecular Cancer Biology

School of Molecular and Cellular Biology

Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have an established background in V(D)J recombination research? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive Universities?

V(D)J recombination is vital to generate a diverse antibody repertoire. We recently showed that the by-products of V(D)J recombination associate with the recombinase enzymes to trigger double strand breaks throughout lymphocyte genomes. Notably, these breaks colocalise with those found in Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia. This project will analyse limited amounts of clinical samples to determine if the levels of the recombination by-product influence the prognosis of Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia. It will also use specialised biophysical techniques to examine the interactions between the recombinase enzymes and the recombination by-product. These latter studies aim to determine which contacts need to be disrupted to prevent formation of the recombinase/by-product complex. In the longer term, it is hoped these studies will contribute to developing ways of blocking the dangers posed by the recombinase/by-product complex. To increase the chances of success of this short-term project, candidates with intricate knowledge of V(D)J recombination and of examining recombination products will be preferred.

You should have a PhD (or close to completion) in molecular biology or molecular immunology or a closely allied discipline. Experience of investigating V(D)J recombination and the ability to reproducibly produce high quality data using highly intricate molecular biology techniques, 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 recently awarded a Silver award (2020). 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. Joan Boyes](#);
- Generating independent and original research ideas and methods to investigate V(D)J recombination with an aim to extend the Boyes group 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;
- 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 close to completion) in molecular biology or molecular immunology or a closely allied discipline;
- Experience of V(D)J recombination research;
- The ability to reproducibly analyse nanogram quantities of nucleic acids with great precision
- Experience of working with labile proteins;
- Strong bioinformatics skills that can be applied to analyse complex, multi-step DNA rearrangements of DNA;
- The ability to design, execute and write 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;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines;
- A proven ability to work well both independently and as part of a team;
- Ability to work accurately and carefully;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development.

You may also have:

- Experience in
 - Handling limited amounts of clinical samples
 - Purification of highly labile proteins
 - Biophysical techniques such as SPR and HDX
- 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:

[Dr Joan Boyes](#), Associate Professor

Email: j.m.boyes@leeds.ac.uk



Additional information

Find out more about the [Faculty of Biological Sciences](#) and the [School of Molecular and Cellular Biology](#)

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.

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.

