

## CANDIDATE BRIEF

University Academic Fellow in High-Throughput Molecular Discovery,  
Faculty of Engineering & Physical Sciences



**Salary: Grade 8 (£41,526 – £49,553 p.a.)**

Successful completion of a five-year probationary period leading to confirmation as a Grade 9 Associate Professor

**Reference: EPSCH1048**

**Closing date: Tuesday 30 November 2021**

**We will consider flexible working arrangements**

## **University Academic Fellow in High-Throughput Molecular Discovery, School of Chemistry.**

**Are you an experienced and ambitious researcher aspiring to become an academic leader in a research-intensive Russell Group University? Would your academic career be accelerated by starting your research programme at the Rosalind Franklin Institute? Do you have an excellent research background directly relevant to high-throughput molecular discovery and chemical biology?**

With a vision and drive to develop a prestigious internationally competitive research portfolio as well as a passion for undertaking research-led teaching you will make a significant impact on the performance, stature and profile of research and student education at the University of Leeds.

This University Academic Fellowship (UAF) is for future academic leaders providing an excellent opportunity to establish an academic career at a research intensive university and play a key role in our ambitious plans for the future.

You will establish a research programme at the Rosalind Franklin Institute that will integrate and collaborate across its themes, and align with relevant research at the University of Leeds. The post will be based within the Franklin's Next-Generation Chemistry for Medicine group, and will have an emphasis on high-throughput molecular discovery. You will integrate data science and high-throughput experimentation to achieve a step-change in molecular discovery capabilities, and you will apply your novel approaches in collaboration with colleagues at the Franklin and the University of Leeds. Particularly relevant to this post is the High-Throughput Molecular Discovery facility that the Franklin is establishing that will integrate high-throughput chemistry, analysis, purification and biological evaluation. The Franklin is at the heart of the UK's national laboratory campus at Harwell in the Thames Valley, just 15 minutes from Oxford and next door to many of the leading national facilities. Your independent programme will therefore be delivered in a creative environment provides unrivalled opportunities for collaboration and to launch your academic career. The normal expectation is that this role will relocate to the University of Leeds after five years.



You will embark on a structured five-year development programme, successful completion of which will lead to your appointment as a grade 9 Associate Professor.

With a PhD (or equivalent qualification) in a relevant field, you will have significant proven research experience within the academic discipline with a developing record of internationally excellent publications. You will have the potential and commitment to undertake high quality and innovative teaching, the ability to obtain competitive research funding and a clear and compelling academic plan that will deliver academic and more general impact at an international level.

This partnership in high-throughput molecular discovery between the Rosalind Franklin Institute and the University of Leeds complements other activities at both organisations. The Rosalind Franklin Institute develops transformational technologies for the life sciences, and has five scientific themes: artificial intelligence and informatics; biological mass spectrometry; correlated imaging; next generation chemistry for medicine; and structural biology. The Astbury Centre for Structural Molecular Biology at the University of Leeds is an internationally-leading research centre at the physical/biological science interface whose mission is to understand the life in molecular detail. Successful candidates will pursue research that aligns with these activities and provides many opportunities for collaboration.

**Please note that, as part of this exciting new Leeds-Franklin collaboration, another University Academic Fellowship in High-Throughput Molecular Discovery, based at the University of Leeds, is also being [advertised](#). Candidates interested in both positions will need to submit two separate applications.**

## What does the role entail?

As a University Academic Fellow in High-Throughput Molecular Discovery, your main duties will include:

- Realising your vision to transform molecular discovery capabilities by integrating data science and high-throughput experimentation with the vision of the Rosalind Franklin Institute;
- Contributing to other research initiatives facilitated by the Rosalind Franklin Institute and/or the University of Leeds, including those that involve local, national and/or international academic and/or industrial partners;



- Contributing to teaching at different levels, delivered largely remotely or in focused blocks (whilst the role is based in Harwell);
- Pursuing a programme of individual and collaborative research, resulting in high quality publications and a national and international profile and engaging with industry as appropriate to attract and co-ordinate major initiatives;
- Promoting the integration of your own research area with other research interests, in the School, Faculty and University;
- Attracting research income on an individual and collaborative basis according to an agreed plan, as appropriate to the field or discipline, to support high quality research activity and research programmes/projects;
- Developing a strategy to ensure that your research has the potential for impact beyond the immediate subject area and/or beyond academia;
- Undertaking research-led teaching at different levels, with engagement in continual improvement in response to student and other feedback;
- Contributing to the design, development and planning of modules and policy within the subject area as required;
- Working in line with the University's Partnership Agreement and with our students as members of a learning community to provide outstanding education and an excellent student experience;
- Contributing to the management of the school by taking on appropriate leadership, management and administrative responsibility;
- Leading academic initiatives and projects in research and student education which facilitate School, Faculty and/or University development;
- Participating in the recruitment, management and development of staff as well as acting as a mentor to less experienced colleagues;
- Contributing to the development of the discipline or research area, e.g. through organisation of conferences or membership of key bodies setting the strategic direction of the area;
- Contribute to the development and achievement of University, faculty and school strategy within the context of an international, research-led university;
- Becoming a specialist in the field, developing and maintaining an external profile as appropriate to the discipline;
- Maintaining own continuing professional development.

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 University Academic Fellow in High-Throughput Molecular Discovery, you will have:

- A PhD (or equivalent qualification) in a field relevant to molecular science;
- Evidence of a clear and compelling academic plan that will deliver academic and more general impact at an international level, in order to meet the criteria for progression to Associate Professor within the five year probationary period (please attach a statement of no more than 2 sides of A4 to your application);
- A compelling research vision to transform bioactive molecular discovery capabilities by integrating data science and high-throughput experimentation, that will benefit from you being initially based at the Rosalind Franklin Institute and alignment with interdisciplinary research activities at Leeds;
- An excellent research background that is demonstrably highly relevant to high-throughput molecular discovery;
- Significant proven research experience within the academic discipline with a developing record of internationally excellent publications;
- A track record of gaining significant competitive research funding;
- Experience of presenting at national and international conferences and/or symposia;
- Evidence of building strong working relationships within and, as appropriate, beyond your own discipline and to contribute to successful projects and collaborations;
- The potential and commitment to undertake high quality and innovative teaching and gain a higher education teaching qualification or award;
- Experience of delivering and engaging with student education where opportunities have existed;
- A high level of interpersonal and communication skills, and a strong ability to communicate effectively in writing and verbally with students, academic and external audiences;
- The ability to lead projects and organise, balance and prioritise work commitments.

You may also have:

- Success in gaining significant independent research funding;
- Experience of leading on projects and initiatives, including managing resources and conflicting priorities within challenging circumstances;



- A growing track record of successful and innovative teaching at both undergraduate and/or postgraduate level;
- Experience of involvement in postgraduate research supervision;
- Experience of working collaboratively with external partner organisations;
- Experience of mentoring less experienced colleagues.

## How to apply

**Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to attend an on-line event that will provide further information about the partnership between the University of Leeds and the Rosalind Franklin Institute, and the associated high-throughput discovery infrastructure at the Franklin (see contact information below); the event will provide an opportunity for potential applicants to ask questions about the role and the research environment. Potential applicants are also strongly encouraged to contact Professor Adam Nelson or Professor Ben Davis (see below) to explore the opportunity and to address any remaining queries about the role.**

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](#).

Please attach the following documents to your application in Word or PDF format:

- A CV;
- A list of publications;
- A statement detailing your research and academic plan (no more than 2 sides of A4, as requested in the person specification). As part of the selection process, account will be taken in relation to your research and academic plan, in particular the impact of this and the strategic fit to the Rosalind Franklin Institute and the University Leeds.

## Contact information

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for potential applicants to ask questions about the role and the research environment. If you wish to attend this event please contact Louise Hawksworth via [L.Hawksworth@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:L.Hawksworth@leeds.ac.uk) for more information. Potential applicants are also strongly encouraged to contact Professor Adam Nelson or Professor Ben Davis (see below) to explore the opportunity and to address any remaining queries about the role:

[Professor Adam Nelson](#), Professor of Chemical Biology (University of Leeds) and Head of High-Throughput Molecular Discovery (Rosalind Franklin Institute)  
Email: [A.S.Nelson@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:A.S.Nelson@leeds.ac.uk)

[Professor Ben Davis](#), Science Director, Next-Generation Chemistry for Medicine Theme, Rosalind Franklin Institute  
Email: [Ben.Davis@chem.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Ben.Davis@chem.ox.ac.uk)

## Additional information

### Faculty and School Information

Further information is available on the research and teaching activities of the [Faculty of Engineering & Physical Sciences](#), and the [School of Chemistry](#). The University of Leeds has established a partnership with the Rosalind Franklin Institute in High-Throughput Molecular Discovery. The [Astbury Centre for Structural Molecular Biology](#) brings together over 400 researchers at the interfaces between chemistry, physics and the biological sciences.

### The Rosalind Franklin Institute

The Rosalind Franklin Institute develops transformational technologies for the life sciences, and has five scientific themes: artificial intelligence and informatics; biological mass spectrometry; correlated imaging; next generation chemistry for medicine; and structural 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.



The Rosalind Franklin Institute is committed to building inclusive practices, which encourage, support and celebrate diversity in all its forms. To facilitate this commitment, the Franklin is an active member of the Employers Network for Equality & Inclusion and have a number of groups on the Harwell Campus which aid in supporting our diverse staff. For further information, view the Franklin's [equality, diversity and inclusion policy](#).

### **Working at Harwell and Leeds**

This role will initially be based at the Rosalind Franklin Institute in Harwell in Oxfordshire (initially for 5 years). The Harwell campus is located in beautiful countryside, and may be easily reached by car or public transport. More information about life on Harwell campus (including clubs, wellbeing, events, accommodation etc) can be found [here](#).

The normal expectation is that this role will relocate to the University of Leeds after 5 years. 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.

