



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Lecturer or Associate Professor in Soft Matter Physics

Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences



Salary: Grade 8 (£45,585 – £54,395 p.a.) or Grade 9 (£56,021 – £64,914 p.a.)

Reference: EPSPA1115

Closing date: Sunday 14 July 2024

Full time, ongoing

We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements

Lecturer or Associate Professor in Soft Matter Physics, School of Physics and Astronomy.

Are you an influential academic with a proven ability to carry out teaching and research in Soft Matter Physics in the area of liquid crystals? Do you have the ability to provide academic leadership, to carry out high quality research, and teaching in Physics? Are you passionate about delivering an exceptional student experience in a research-intensive Russell Group University?

We are looking for a dedicated and passionate academic who brings research and teaching expertise in Soft Matter Physics and who contributes to academic leadership in their area. You will join the well-established Soft Matter Physics Group in the School of Physics and Astronomy at Leeds, promoting values of collegiality within the academic community.

You will have a PhD in a relevant discipline and experience of research in your field, including good publications in peer-reviewed journals, successful research grant applications, engagement with external collaborators, e.g. standards committees and industrial collaborators, and key presentations at international conferences. You will be an experimental physicist and have a track record of interdisciplinary collaboration with theoreticians, chemists and experimentalists. You will also have a track record of leading and delivering UG and PG modules in the field. As a Lecturer or Associate Professor in Physics, you will be an outstanding individual, who will join us in providing academic leadership for the field. You will have research expertise in areas complementary to those in the liquid crystals part of the Soft Matter Physics group, particularly in liquid crystal optics (www.smp.leeds.ac.uk). We welcome applications from candidates who can contribute to research and teaching in the broad area of sustainability.

The Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences holds the Athena Swan Silver Award in recognition of our success in recruiting, retaining, and developing/promoting women in Science, Engineering and Technology (SET). The School of Physics and Astronomy holds Juno Practitioner status from the Institute of Physics and offers a number of family-friendly employment practices that are designed to enable a good work-life balance.



What does the role entail?

As a Grade 8 Lecturer, your main duties will include:

- Contributing to the delivery of an exceptional student education and overall experience within the School through:
 - Delivering high-quality research-led teaching, including assessment and examinations in a timely manner at different levels and through different modes of study (on-campus, on-line and/or off-site);
 - Providing support, guidance, and timely feedback to students, acting as a personal tutor, resolving issues, or referring to specialist parties where appropriate;
 - The development and delivery of modules and degree programmes within the School, including the development of innovative educational approaches, and participating in review and quality assurance.
- Developing and delivering a planned programme of research and innovation in Soft Matter Physics with impact at an international level. This will include:
 - Being actively involved in research, innovation, and impact at a national and international level, as well as contributing to local School/Faculty activity;
 - Contributing to our research partnerships with industry;
 - Maintaining a record of high-quality research outputs including journal publications and conference presentations;
 - Attracting research funding individually and collaboratively to underpin your research plan;
 - Collaborating with chemists, theoreticians and engineers;
 - Building a number of academic networks to enable the integration of your own research area with other research interests within and, as appropriate, outside the School of Physics and Astronomy;
 - Providing research supervision and helping to attract funded postgraduate research students to the University.
- Contributing effectively to the administrative processes and committee structures of the School/Faculty including taking on leadership roles and where appropriate, managing initiatives which facilitate School, Faculty or University performance.



As a Grade 9 Associate Professor, your additional duties will also include:

- Promoting the discipline of Soft Matter Physics nationally and internationally, winning prestige for both the disciplines and the University;
- Pursuing, leading, and developing the strategic direction of research, innovation, and impact at an appropriately benchmarked level, attracting research income, and collaborating widely with leading academic and industrial organisations on an individual and collaborative basis, to underpin high-quality research activity and programmes/projects;
- Being recognised as an authority in your field, developing and maintaining an external profile as appropriate to the discipline;
- Leading collaborations with chemists, theoreticians and engineers;
- Playing a significant role in the design, development, planning and review of modules and programmes within the subject area as required;
- Managing or leading major initiatives or areas of work (as either sustained or one-off projects) as well as taking on leadership roles which facilitate School, Faculty or University performance as 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.

What will you bring to the role?

As a Grade 8 Lecturer, you will have:

- A PhD in the field of Soft Matter Physics;
- A proven ability to deliver effective student education in Physics in a University, with an enthusiastic approach to teaching and the ability to communicate and interact effectively with students in ways that will enhance the student experience;
- Experience of proactively developing new teaching approaches and materials;
- Experience of providing postgraduate student supervision;
- Experience of working with experimentalists;
- A track record of research outputs in refereed publications of internationally excellent quality;
- A successful record of obtaining external research funding, commensurate with your career stage, and with the potential for obtaining further funding in the future;



- The ability to develop research networks and interdisciplinary collaborations through effective communication;
- 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;
- An ability to listen actively, discuss and understand the needs of others and propose innovative solutions to address those requirements;
- The ability to contribute to management and administrative processes and structures, including managing resources and/or staff.

You may also have:

- A Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy or another recognised teaching qualification or within 2 years of obtaining one.

Additionally, for appointment at Grade 9 Associate Professor, you will also have:

- An international reputation, including a sustained track record of raising research funds from national and international funding agencies;
- A sustained track record of research outputs as a single or main author of refereed publications of internationally excellent quality;
- Significant experience of teaching effectively at all levels within higher education, including module and programme design, review, and development;
- Experience of leading national or international collaborations;
- A proven ability to provide academic leadership, including managing resources and/or staff;
- A Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy or another recognised teaching qualification.



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 short research statement outlining your research vision and future funding strategy.** You should explain how your research aligns with the School of Physics and Astronomy and wider university research strengths, and how you would utilise and build upon established facilities and expertise.
- **A short statement of your teaching experience.** You should explain how your teaching philosophy aligns with the University of Leeds student education strategy available here: <https://spotlight.leeds.ac.uk/strategy-studenteducation/index.html>. A supporting statement evidencing how you believe your existing knowledge and experience equips you to carry out the role.
- **A copy of your curriculum vitae** giving full details of qualifications, research and teaching experience and a record of research grants and publications.

Contact information

To explore the post further or for any queries you may have, please contact:

[Professor Mike Ries](#), Head of Soft Matter Physics

Email: M.E.Ries@leeds.ac.uk



Additional information

Please note: If you are not a British or Irish citizen, you will require permission to work in the UK. This will normally be in the form of a visa but, if you are an EEA/Swiss citizen and resident in the UK before 31 December 2020, this may be your passport or status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

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 [School of Physics and Astronomy](#).

A diverse workforce

As an international research-intensive university, we welcome students and staff from all walks of life and from across the world. We foster an inclusive environment where all can flourish and prosper, and we are proud of our strong commitment to student education. Within the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences we are dedicated to diversifying our community and we welcome the unique contributions that individuals can bring, and particularly encourage applications from, but not limited to women, Black, Asian and ethnically diverse people; people who identify as LGBT+; and people with disabilities. Candidates will always be selected based on merit and ability.

The Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences are proud to have been awarded the Athena SWAN [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

We are a campus-based community and regular interaction with campus is an expectation of all roles in line with academic and service needs and the requirements of the role. We are also open to discussing flexible working arrangements. To find out more about the benefits of working at the University and what it is like to live and work in the Leeds area, visit our [Working at Leeds](#) information page.



Information for disabled candidates

Information for disabled candidates, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found on our [Accessibility](#) information page or by getting in touch with us at hr@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.

