



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

## CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Assistant in Protein Labelling,  
Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences



**Salary: Grade 6 (£30,487 - £36,024 p.a.)** Due to funding restrictions, an appointment will not be made higher than £30,487 p.a.

**Reference: EPSCH1106**

**Closing date: Tuesday 02 July 2024**

**Fixed term until 30 September 2024**

**We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements**

## Research Assistant in Protein Labelling, School of Chemistry.

Are you an early career researcher looking for an opportunity to build experience in the protein engineering field? Do you have a background in protein or peptide science? Would you like to join a team evaluating a new technology?

In this role, you will contribute to an ongoing project to evaluate a proprietary technology for protein labelling developed at the University of Leeds ([onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/anie.202310862](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/anie.202310862)). In particular, you will be responsible for demonstrating the robustness, scalability and portability of the system. You will undertake a range of pre-defined research activities to validate the system against these criteria.

### What does the role entail?

As a Research Assistant, your main duties will include:

- Carrying out protein labelling experiments;
- Characterising protein and peptide reaction mixtures using techniques including polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis, electrospray mass spectroscopy, liquid chromatography coupled MS and fluorescence;
- Synthesising and characterising peptides and proteins using techniques such as solid-phase peptide synthesis, affinity and size-exclusion chromatography;
- Analysing and interpreting data from techniques such as ESMS, SDS-PAGE and fluorescence data in collaboration with other members of the research group;
- Supporting research activities, including contributing to research results and outputs and to the generation of original ideas, ensuring a successful programme of investigation;
- Writing reports, undertaking literature reviews and preparing papers for publication, with guidance as necessary;
- Collating and analysing data to inform the direction and progression of the research project;
- Participating in the research group and presenting research output where appropriate;



- Working both independently and as part of a larger team of researchers and stakeholders;
- Contributing to the research culture of the School, where appropriate;
- Continually updating your knowledge, understanding and skills in the research field.

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 Assistant you will have:

- An undergraduate or Masters Degree in Physical Sciences or a closely allied discipline;
- A strong background in protein labelling;
- Experience in the labelling of proteins using transpeptidases;
- Experience in characterisation techniques used for studying protein labelling such as SDS-PAGE, mass spectrometry and fluorescent labelling;
- Experience in deconvolution and quantification of protein mass spectrometry;
- 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 independently and in a team;
- The ability to work accurately, unsupervised and use your own initiative.

You may also have:

- A PhD (or close to completion) in Chemical Biology or a closely allied discipline;
- Experience of contributing to the writing of papers for publication.



## 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:

[Professor Michael Webb](#), Professor of Biological Chemistry

Tel: +44(0)113 343 6423

Email: [M.E.Webb@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:M.E.Webb@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 Chemistry](#).

### 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 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](mailto: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.

