



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in Molecular Seed Biology, Faculty of Biological Sciences



Salary: Grade 7 (£37,099 - £44,263 p.a.)

Reference: FBSBY1200

Available on a fixed-term, full-time basis for 36 months (to complete specific time limited work)

This role will be based on the university campus.

We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements.

Research Fellow in Molecular Seed Biology

School of Biology

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

Seeds underpin sustainable agriculture and food security, providing the majority of global food principally as cereals and legumes. High vigour seeds display rapid, uniform germination and seedling establishment that is tolerant of stress conditions. We hypothesise a central role for DNA repair and damage signalling processes in seed germination vigour which impacts on seedling establishment. Here we will use genetic, biochemical and high throughput analytical approaches to reveal the molecular link between genome integrity and seed vigour, establishing the mechanistic basis of how seed germination impacts on seedling vigour. The ultimate aim of this project is to apply the knowledge gained in this study to develop novel lines of plants with improved germination performance through modulating the activity of these DNA repair factors. We will test the potential of key factors to genetically improve the resilience of seed germination in *Arabidopsis* and *Brassica oleracea*, a crop species important to UK agriculture.

What we offer in return:

- 26 days holiday plus approx.16 Bank Holidays/days that the University is closed by custom (including Christmas) – That’s 42 days a year!
- Generous pension scheme plus life assurance– the University contributes 14.5% of salary
- Health and Wellbeing: Discounted staff membership options at The Edge, our state-of-the-art Campus gym, with a pool, sauna, climbing wall, cycle circuit, and sports halls.
- Personal Development: Access to courses run by our Organisational Development & Professional Learning team.
- Access to on-site childcare, shopping discounts and travel schemes are also available.

And much more!



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 awarded a Silver award in 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 Chris West](#);
- Generating independent and original research ideas and methods in Molecular Seed Biology with an aim to extend the West 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;
- 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.

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 in Seed Biochemistry or Molecular biology, or a closely allied discipline;



- Experience in molecular, biochemical and physiological analysis of seed germination and molecular analysis of seed longevity;
- Demonstrated expertise in Arabidopsis molecular genetics;
- Research experience of DNA repair in seeds evidenced by high quality first author publications;
- Experience with application of omics approaches to seed germination;
- Knowledge, insight and experience of seed testing;
- Detailed understanding of the molecular factors that determine seed vigour;
- Experience in analysis of programmed cell death in seeds;
- Experience in quantification of DNA damage responses in seeds;
- A track record of peer reviewed publications in international journals in molecular seed biology or a closely allied discipline;
- Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal, and the ability to communicate your research at national and international conferences including evidence of invited paper presentations at high profile conferences relevant to the discipline;
- A demonstrated ability to establish and maintain collaborations and a wide network of research contacts relevant to the discipline;
- The ability to work well both independently and as part of a team, including a track record of providing laboratory management and training of junior lab members;
- The ability to design, execute and write up research independently, working accurately and carefully;
- Evidence of a strong commitment to your own continuous professional development;
- Good time management and planning skills, with a pro-active approach demonstrating the ability to meet tight deadlines and deliver high quality under pressure.

You may also have:

- An excellent track record of securing external grant funding as a co-investigator;
- Evidence of teaching qualifications appropriate to the level required for laboratory based student supervision.



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 Chris West](#), Senior Lecturer

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 2915

Email: C.E.West@leeds.ac.uk

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, this may be your status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

Additional information

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

Find out more about our [Research and associated facilities](#).

Find out more about our [Faculty initiatives](#).

At the University of Leeds, we are committed to providing a culture of inclusion, respect and equity of opportunity that attracts, supports, and retains the best students and staff from all backgrounds and from across the world. Whatever role we recruit for we are always striving to increase the diversity of our community, which each individual helps enrich and cultivate. We particularly encourage applications from, but not limited to



Black, Asian, people who belong to a minority ethnic community; people who identify as LGBT+; and disabled people. Candidates will always be selected based on merit and ability.

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.

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.

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.

Visa Information

Please note that this post may be suitable for sponsorship under the Skilled Worker visa route but first-time applicants might need to qualify for salary concessions. For more information please visit: www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa.

For research and academic posts, we will consider eligibility under the Global Talent visa. For more information please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/global-talent>

