



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in Molecular Virology,
Faculty of Biological Sciences



Salary: Grade 7 (£38,205 - £45,585 p.a.)

Reference: FBSMB1284

Available on a fixed-term basis for 3 years (to complete specific time limited work)

This role will be based on the university campus. We are also open to discussing flexible working arrangements.

Research Fellow in Molecular Virology

School of Molecular and Cellular Biology

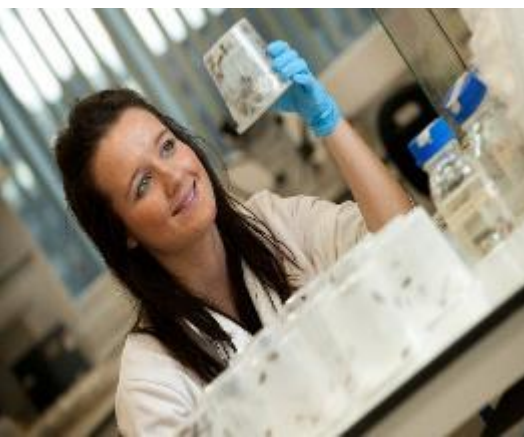
Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have an established background in molecular virology? Do you want to further your career in one of the UKs leading research intensive Universities?

An exciting opportunity is available to join the laboratory of [Dr Morgan Herod](#) to study mechanisms of hepatitis E virus (HEV) replication, funded by the Medical Research Council. HEV is a positive-sense RNA virus that encodes a polyprotein which is required for virus replication. A common theme for positive-sense RNA viruses is that the polyprotein undergoes proteolysis to generate functional proteins (termed non-structural proteins: NSPs). This processing is performed by both virally-encoded and host cellular proteases, and is generally believed to be a key step in regulating viral replication. In contrast, we recently made the exciting discovery that the polyprotein of HEV is not processed by a viral protease, thus implicating a host protease as critical in controlling viral replication (<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.ppat.1011529>).

This position will build on these results and focus on identifying and characterising the role of host proteases in HEV replication, and define the role for HEV NSPs in the virus lifecycle. The project will involve a range of biochemical and cell biological techniques including immunoprecipitation and proteomic analyses to functionally characterise HEV proteins and identify key virus-host protein interactions. The position provides an opportunity to conduct ground-breaking research into virus-host interactions and generate a new paradigm for RNA virus replication. The project would suit an individual who has experience in working with pathogenic viruses under high containment (BSL3), working with RNA and proven ability to generate and interpret 'omics data. The successful applicant will join an interdisciplinary laboratory shared between multiple investigators and working on a range of viruses.

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 Morgan Herod](#) and [Professor Mark Harris](#);
- Generating independent and original research ideas and methods in antiviral immunity;
- 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:

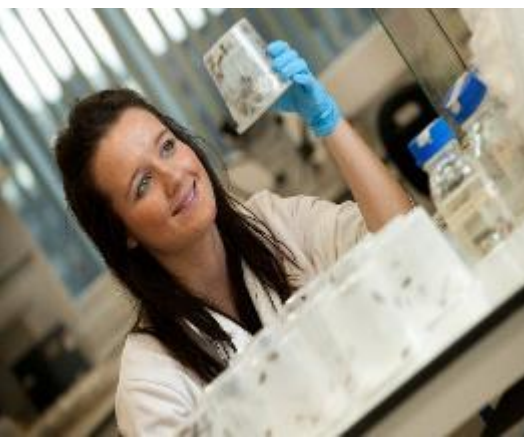
- A PhD in molecular virology or a closely allied discipline;
- Experience in propagation and analysis of pathogenic viruses in a Biological Safety Level 3 (BSL3) laboratory;
- Experience in employing and manipulating reverse genetic systems to generate infectious virus;
- Experience in working with RNA;
- Experience in generating and interpreting proteomics datasets;
- 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 cell biology or protein biochemistry;
- Experience with hepatitis E virus or related viruses;
- Experience of working with protein labelling methodologies.

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 Morgan Herod](#)

Email: m.r.herod@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 Molecular and Cellular Biology](#)

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

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 hr@leeds.ac.uk

Criminal record information

Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975

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>

