



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in DNA Nanotechnology and Molecular Seed Science,
Faculty of Biological Sciences



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

Reference: FBSBY1202

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

This role will be based on the university campus

Research Fellow in DNA Nanotechnology and Molecular Seed Science

School of Biology

Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have an established background in DNA origami nanostructures and single-molecule imaging? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive Universities?

If so, we are recruiting a Research Fellow in DNA Nanotechnology and Molecular Seed Sciences to join an interdisciplinary team to investigate the mechanisms underpinning genome preservation in plant species with DNA nanotechnology and advanced imaging tools.

Overview of the Role

This role is for a highly experienced scientist with proven skills in DNA nanotechnology and DNA nanostructure characterisation, supported by internationally leading publications. You will have a very strong track record in biophysical sciences and single-molecule imaging (e.g., atomic force microscopy, electron microscopy, super-resolution fluorescence imaging) with an international profile including presentations at major DNA nanotechnology conferences. You will bring this expertise to the role, which involved the development of innovative tools for studying genome stability in seeds and plant cells. You will be motivated to expand your research skills in molecular biology, protein chemistry and proteomics.

By joining us, you will be part of a dynamic team members of the Bragg Centre for Materials Research, providing a vibrant, collaborative, interdisciplinary research environment that encourages creativity and exploration. We look forward to welcoming a motivated, collaborative researcher to join our team on this exciting and ambitious project.

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.

Main duties and responsibilities

- Designing, planning and conducting a programme of investigation, in consultation with Dr Chris West and Dr Matteo Castronovo;
- Generating independent and original research ideas and methods in DNA nanotechnology with an aim to extend the research portfolio of the West and Castronovo groups;
- 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 training and co-supervision of undergraduate, postgraduate students and PhD, including assisting with the supervision of projects in areas relevant to the project;
- Maintaining your own continuing professional development and acting as a mentor to less experienced colleagues as appropriate;



- 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.

Qualifications and skills

Essential

- A PhD (or close to completion) in biochemistry, bioengineering, biophysics, materials science or a closely allied discipline;
- A strong background in DNA nanotechnology;
- Proven expertise in two or more of the following techniques applied to biomolecular systems: gel electrophoresis, atomic force microscopy, electron microscopy, fluorescence microscopy;
- The ability to design, execute and write up research independently, working accurately and carefully;
- A track record of peer reviewed publications in international journals in Biomolecular Nanotechnology or a closely allied discipline;
- 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 with a strong commitment to your own continuous professional development
- Ability to work accurately and carefully;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development

Desirable

- Experience in gene expression analysis (including real time PCR) and proteomics;
- Evidence of pursuing external funding to support research.



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:

Chris West, Senior Lecturer

Email: c.e.west@leeds.ac.uk

Or

Matteo Castronovo, Lecturer

Email: m.castronovo@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](#)

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.

Information for disabled candidates

Information for disabled candidates, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found under the 'Accessibility' heading on our [How to Apply](#) information page or by getting in touch by [emailing HR via hr@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:hr@leeds.ac.uk).

Criminal record information

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.

Salary Requirements of the Skilled Worker Visa Route

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 [the Government's Skilled Worker visa page](#).

For research and academic posts, we will consider eligibility under the Global Talent visa. For more information, please visit [the Government's page, Apply for the Global Talent visa](#).

