



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Technician in Molecular Virology, Faculty of Biological Sciences



Salary: Grade 5 (£27,344 - £31,387 p.a.)

Reference: FBSMB1289

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

Research Technician in Molecular Virology

School of Molecular and Cellular Biology

Are you an early career researcher looking for a challenge? Do you have a background in virology? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's 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. You will use a range of molecular virology approaches to study proteolytic processing of the HEV polyprotein. 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. 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 polyprotein domains in the virus lifecycle. The position provides an opportunity to conduct ground-breaking research into virus-host interactions and generate a new paradigm for RNA virus replication. To achieve this, it will exploit recently developed HEV culture and replicon systems, to conduct a functional proteomic analysis.

You will have a background in molecular biology and expertise in the study of viruses. You will join a team of researchers focusing on mechanisms of positive strand RNA virus replication and host-cell interactions. You will be organised and willing to work collaboratively as part of a team.

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 options plus life assurance
- 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

- Assisting in the day-to-day running of the research laboratory, including the care and maintenance of some laboratory equipment or machinery and ordering supplies;
- Liaising with academics and researchers to perform techniques and protocols as appropriate. These would include (but are not limited to) the following: recombinant DNA technology, working with RNA, cell culture, protein analysis;
- Maintaining Health and Safety records and developing risk assessments for new and existing protocols;
- Maintaining good records and laboratory notebooks of work carried out, including providing clear understandable data to other members of the research group;
- Explaining laboratory procedures to new users and students within the research group;
- Providing flexible technical support to members of the research group based on their needs;
- Preparing, collating and presenting data in an understandable manner to members of the research group at regular group meetings.

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 Degree, BTEC higher level or equivalent or equivalent experience
- An understanding of the principles of molecular biology (this can include a period in Further or Higher Education)
- Practical experience in recombinant DNA technology
- Practical experience in working with RNA
- Practical experience in cell culture
- Practical experience in protein expression and purification
- A proven ability to perform technically demanding tasks with care and precision;
- Willingness to undertake training in new experimental techniques and skills where necessary (for example safe working at Biological Safety Level 3)
- Good organisational and time management skills, with the ability to work unsupervised and use your own initiative to meet deadlines;
- Good verbal and written communications skills, with the ability to clearly articulate and present information, ideas and analysis, modifying your approach to suit different audiences;
- Good IT skills, including MS Office software, with experience of record keeping.

Desirable

- Previous experience with working at Biological Safety Level 3
- Previous experience with virus propagation
- RSci (Registered Scientist) or RSci Tech (Registered Science Technician) qualification from IST

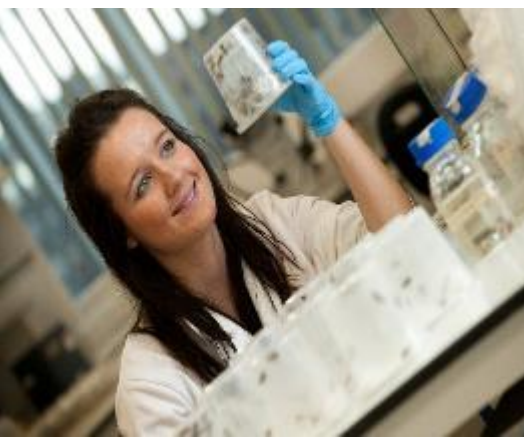
Contact information

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. 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

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.

Salary Requirements of the Skilled Worker Visa Route

Please note that due to Home Office visa requirements, this role is not suitable for first-time Skilled Worker visa applicants. Information on other visa options is available via [the Government's Work in the UK page](#).

