



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in Cryo-electron Microscopy of Virus Samples, Faculty of Biological Sciences



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

Reference: FBSMB1291

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

This role will be based on the main university campus.

We are also open to discussing flexible working

Research Fellow in Advanced Cryo-Electron Microscopy of Virus Assembly

School of Molecular and Cellular Biology

Are you looking to join a laboratory with an internationally-leading profile? Do you have a background in the uses of cryo-electron microscopy in the study of virus assembly/genetics/structural biochemistry? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive Universities?

You will work alongside highly experienced Postdoctoral Fellows, participating in work involving in vitro studies of virus assembly mechanisms, and in particular, how viral genomes help to regulate formation of their protective shells. These assembly mechanisms can also be the targets of novel, evolutionarily-conserved, anti-viral therapy. The thrust of the laboratory is to use non-traditional tools and technologies, e.g. asymmetric cryo-electron microscopy, single molecule biophysics and mathematical molecular modelling, alongside more traditional techniques.

You should have a PhD (or be near to completion - i.e. the initial thesis needs to have been submitted at the point of application) in Biochemistry; Genetics or Molecular Biology, with experience in cryo-EM reconstruction and their uses to provide asymmetric structural information.

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 a Silver award winner in 2020. We are proud to be an inclusive Faculty that values all its staff. Our Athena SWAN [webpage](#) provides more information.

Main duties and responsibilities

As a Research Fellow your main duties will include:

Contributing to “*Revealing the hidden roles of ssRNA genomes regulating viral infectivity*”, a project supported by a major grant from the Wellcome Trust to [Professor Peter G Stockley](#) (Leeds, primary supervisor) and [Professor Reidun Twarock](#) (York).

- Designing, planning and conducting a programme of investigation, in consultation with [Professor Peter G Stockley](#);
- Generating original data and ideas based on the outcomes of laboratory-based experiment and analysis, in collaboration with [Professor Peter G Stockley](#), and other researchers in the group;
- Using electron microscopy techniques to probe both structures and functions in a range of model viruses;
- 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;
- Supporting the activities of the research group to ensure a successful programme of investigation, including active, in-person participation at group meetings and seminars;
- 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.
- Continually updating your knowledge, understanding and skills in the research field in which you work.



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 be near to completion - i.e. the initial thesis needs to have been submitted at the point of application) in Biochemistry; Genetics or Molecular Biology; or a closely allied discipline, with hands-on experience of work with modern EM facilities;
- Experience in cryo-EM reconstruction and their uses to provide asymmetric structural information;
- 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;
- Excellent time management and planning skills, with a willingness to meet tight deadlines;
- A proven ability to work well both independently, and as part of a wider team;
- The ability to work accurately and carefully;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development;

Desirables

- Experience in single molecule biophysics of macromolecular complexes; purification of macromolecules from bacterial cell culture using HPLC methods.

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 Peter G Stockley](#), Supervisor & grant Holder in Leeds

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 3092.

Email: p.g.stockley@leeds.ac.uk

Please note: *If you are not a British or Irish citizen and are appointed, 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](#)

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 in person interactions with the laboratory supervisor, and other research staff, on campus is an expectation of all roles, in line with academic and service needs and the requirements of the role. 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

This post requires does not require a criminal record check from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), and any equivalent overseas authorities where relevant. The successful candidate will, however, be required to give consent for the University to check their criminal record status, if required. All applicants are required to make a self-declaration where applicable.

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](#).

