



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Assistant in Cell Biology and Imaging, Faculty of Biological Sciences



Salary: Grade 6 (£32,546 - £38,249 p.a.)

Reference: FBSMB1299

Available on a fixed-term basis for 2 years (to complete specific time limited work)

This role will be based on the university campus.

Research Assistant in Cell Biology and Imaging

School of Molecular and Cellular Biology

Are you an early career researcher looking for your first challenge? Do you have a background in cell biology and imaging? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive Universities?

We are seeking an outstanding Research Associate to join our dynamic, interdisciplinary research team focused on primary cilium proteins implicated in genetic disorders of the eye, kidney, nervous system, and skeleton. Funded by the UK BBSRC, this project aims to elucidate how these proteins organise and function inside cells using cutting-edge super-resolution imaging. By uncovering the molecular-level mechanisms of cilium function, we aim to deepen our understanding of how mutations in these proteins lead to disease.

For this role, you should have a degree in one of the biological sciences or a closely allied discipline. You should also have experience of protein production and purification, mammalian cell culture, and performing fluorescence microscopy (both sample preparation and image acquisition). You should also have strong laboratory and computational skills, and an interest in learning new techniques.

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
- 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.

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

- Contributing to the research project as directed by [Dr Joe Cockburn](#), via production and purification of recombinant proteins, and imaging of mammalian cells by standard fluorescence and super-resolution microscopy.
- Generating original ideas based on the outcome of analysis, in collaboration with [Dr Joe Cockburn](#)
- Contributing to the dissemination of research results in leading peer-reviewed journals and through presentation at meetings and conferences, with guidance as necessary;
- Supporting the activities of the research group to ensure a successful programme of investigation, including participation at group meetings and seminars;
- Providing support and advice to other members of the group, and assisting in the supervision of students;
- Working both independently and as part of a larger team of researchers and stakeholders;
- Continually updating your knowledge, understanding and skills in the research field in which you work.
- Contributing to and encouraging 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 first degree/Masters in cell biology or a closely allied discipline;
- Expertise in recombinant protein production and purification
- Expertise in performing mammalian cell culture and associated techniques (e.g. transections)



- Expertise in performing fluorescence microscopy on cells (sample processing and imaging using fluorescence microscopes)
- Evidence of contributing to papers in internationally recognised, peer-reviewed journals or evidence of publishable research in progress;
- The ability to design, execute and write up experimental work independently as well as a proven ability to work effectively and responsibly without close supervision;
- Good interpersonal and communication skills, both written and verbal, and the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of stakeholders;
- 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;
- Good data management, analytical and computer skills together with previous experience of using software for analysing data and the ability to work accurately and carefully;
- The desire and drive to learn new skills and techniques with imagination, creativity and ambition;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development.

Desirable

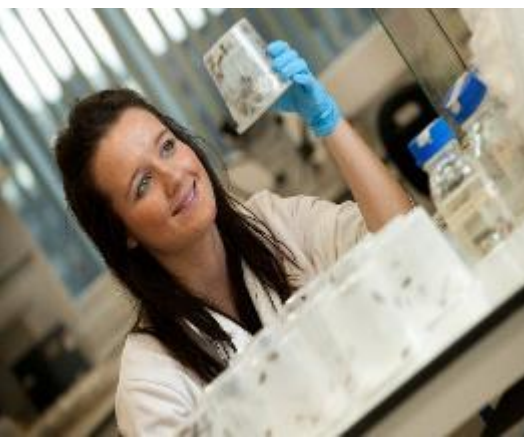
- A PhD (or close to completion) in cell biology or a closely allied discipline;
- Expertise in data acquisition and analysis for super-resolution imaging
- Accepted publications in internationally recognised, peer-reviewed journals.

Contact information

To explore the post further or for any queries you may have, please contact:

Dr [Joe Cockburn](#), Lecturer

Email: j.j.b.cockburn@leeds.ac.uk



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. 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

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: 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.

Please note that due to Home Office visa requirements, this role may only be suitable for first-time Skilled Worker visa applicants if they are eligible 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>.

