



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellows in Structural & Mechanistic Virology,
Faculty of Biological Sciences (2 posts available)



Salary: Grade 7 (£39,355 - £46,735 p.a.)

Reference: FBSMB1301

Available on a fixed-term basis for 36 months (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 Structural & Mechanistic Virology School of Molecular and Cellular Biology

Are you looking to join a laboratory with an internationally-leading profile? Do you have a background in virology and the uses of modern biophysical techniques 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 contribute to the mechanistic understanding of viral life cycles, including those of major human pathogens, such as HIV. The work involves *in vitro* studies of virus assembly mechanisms, and, in particular, will dissect how viral genomes help to regulate the formation of their protective protein shells (see *Ann. Rev. Biophys.*, (2019) **48**, 495-514). This will pave the way to the development of novel, evolutionarily-conserved, anti-viral therapies targeting critical aspects of these mechanisms. Our highly interdisciplinary team uses non-traditional tools and technologies, e.g. asymmetric cryo-electron microscopy; single molecule biophysics and mathematical molecular modelling, alongside more traditional techniques. Training will be offered to appropriate candidates, although prior experience of working with viruses is required. You will work alongside highly experienced Research Fellows and benefit from interactions with a wider interdisciplinary team across the Universities of Leeds and York.

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 current holds a Silver award in this area. 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 [Professor Peter G Stockley](#);
- Generating independent and original research ideas and methods for *Revealing the hidden roles of ssRNA genomes regulating viral infectivity* with an aim of extending our research portfolio;
- Using advanced techniques such as electron microscopy and X-ray footprinting to probe both molecular structures and functions in a range of 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;
- 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.

Qualifications and skills

Essential

- A PhD (or close to completion) in Biochemistry; Genetics or Molecular Biology or a closely allied discipline;
- Experience in viral structure determination (e.g. cryo-EM or X-ray crystallography); viral assembly mechanisms (e.g. via single molecule measurements); or other equivalent skills;
- The ability to design & execute detailed research plans, and to write up research outcomes in clear language 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

Desirable

- Experience in cryo-EM; single molecule biophysics of macromolecular complex assembly; & purification of macromolecules from bacterial cell culture using HPLC methods.
- Evidence of success in 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:

[Professor Peter G Stockley](#),

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 3092.

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

Additional information

Find out more about the [Faculty of Biological Sciences](#) and the [School of Molecular and Cellular Biology](#):



The University of Leeds is 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 strive to increase the diversity of our community, which each individual helps enrich and cultivate, whilst maintaining our pursuit of excellence. We encourage applications from, but these are 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. 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 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](#).

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.

