



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in KSHV and ncRNA Biology, Faculty of Biological Sciences



Salary: Grade 7 (£41,064 – £48,822 p.a.)

Reference: FBSMB1312

Available on a full-time, fixed-term basis from 01/07/2026 until 30/06/2029 (to complete specific time limited work)

This role will be based on the university campus, with scope for it to be undertaken in a hybrid manner. We are also open to discussing flexible working arrangements.

Research Fellow Research Fellow in KSHV and ncRNA Biology

School of Molecular and Cellular Biology

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

Project Title: Understanding the manipulation of ncRNAs during KSHV and EBV replication

The Whitehouse research group is seeking a highly motivated Research Fellow to investigate how the human tumour viruses, Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpesvirus (KSHV) and Epstein Barr virus (EBV), manipulate host cell pathways and host non-coding RNAs to enhance its own replication.

You will become part of a multi-member laboratory team targeting molecular mechanisms of viral infection to ultimately develop new effective antiviral agents.

For this role, you should have a PhD (or close to completion) combining molecular virology and medicinal chemistry approaches, or a closely allied discipline. You should have experience in a wide range of molecular and cell biology techniques, specifically RNA-based techniques, and experience working with KSHV and EBV.

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 re-awarded a Silver award in 2025. 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 to contribute to the understanding of virus-mediated manipulation of host cell RNA processing pathways, as directed by [Professor Whitehouse](#);
- Generating independent and original research ideas and methods in Molecular Virology with an aim to extend the Whitehouse Group research portfolio;
- 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;
- Supporting the activities of the research group to ensure a successful programme of investigation, including participation at group meetings and seminars;
- Contributing to the supervision of junior researchers and PhD students, providing support and advice to other members of the group 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 molecular virology, or a closely allied discipline;
- Experience in KSHV and EBV biology, and studying virus protein-RNA interactions;
- Experience in ncRNA biology and a wide range of RNA-based methodologies;
- Experience in culturing human B and primary endothelial cells;
- A developing track record of peer reviewed publications in internationally recognised, peer-reviewed journals or evidence of publishable research in progress;



- 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;
- The ability to work accurately and carefully;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development.

Desirable

- Experience in a wide range of cell biology, molecular biology and synthetic chemistry techniques;
- Evidence of pursuing external funding to support research;
- Accepted publications in internationally recognised, peer-reviewed journals.

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 Ade Whitehouse](#), Professor of Molecular Virology

Email: a.whitehouse@leeds.ac.uk

Please note: If you are not a British or Irish citizen, from 1 January 2021 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 and resident in the UK before 31 December 2020, this may be your passport or 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. 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).

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 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](#).

