UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in Structural Biology (cryo-ET), Faculty of Biological Sciences

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

Reference: FBSBM1232

Available on a fixed-term basis for 48 months (to complete specific time limited work)

This role will be based on the University of Leeds campus. We are also open to discussing flexible working arrangements.

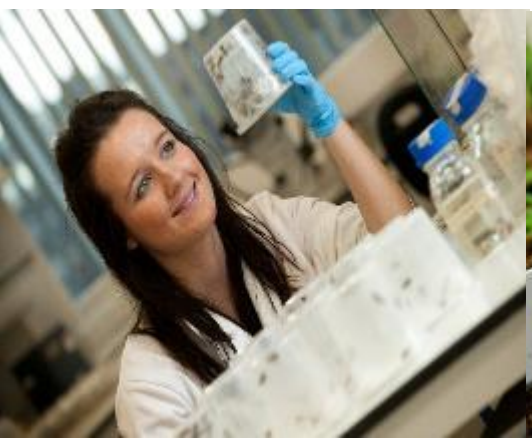
Research Fellow in Structural Biology (cryoET)
School of Biomedical Sciences

Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have an established background in cryoEM/ET and want to join an interdisciplinary, international team to make the next breakthrough in Alzheimer's disease research? Do you want to further your career in one of the UKs leading research intensive Universities?

We are looking for a talented postdoctoral research fellow to join our team investigating protein structures situated within human brain by fluorescence-guided cryoET. This 8-year Wellcome Discovery Award, 'Seeing inside the human brain' will involve 3x PDRAs, a research coordinator, two research technicians and a PhD student working between Leeds, London and Amsterdam to decipher pathological mechanisms of Alzheimer's disease at source. This work will build on our recent breakthrough of determining structures within tissues cryoET (Gilbert et al., *Nature*, 2024). You will work with an integrated team of structural biologists, pathologists and neurologists using correlative imaging and cryoET to investigate the structural basis of amyloid assembly, spread and toxicity within Alzheimer's disease.

You will be based in the laboratories of Rene Frank. For this position you should have (or be close to completing) a PhD in Structural biology (cryoEM/ET) to elucidate protein assembly mechanisms.

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, in consultation with Dr René Frank.
- Generating independent and original research ideas and methods in in situ structural biology, «research area»;
- 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.

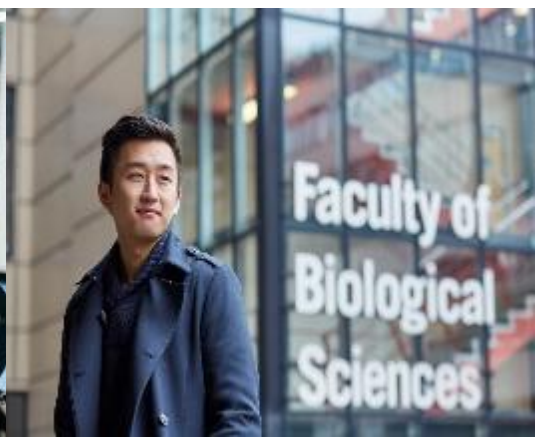
These duties provide a framework for the role and should not be regarded as a definitive list. Other reasonable duties may be required consistent with the grade of the post.

Qualifications and skills

Essential

- A PhD (or close to completion) in Structural Biology (cryoEM/ET);
- Substantial experience of solving structures of proteins and protein complexes using cryoEM/cryoET;
- Experience in using cryoET, or the micromanipulation skills to rapidly learn in situ cryoET techniques, to mill cell/tissue samples, cryo-ultramicrotomy, and analyse in situ protein structures and cellular context;
- Significant skills in the use of computational methods applied to the analysis of protein structures and protein interactions;
- Experience in working with precious samples to address mechanisticquestions in biology;
- Excellent data management, analytical and computer skills including using/developing software for analysing complex and large datasets;





- The desire to learn new skills and techniques and the imagination, creativity and ambition to drive new areas of science;
- 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;
- 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;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development.

Desirable

- Research experience working in the field of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias or neuroscience;
- Experience in working with tissue;
- Experience in confocal fluorescence microscopy.

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 https://jobs.leeds.ac.uk/FBSBM1232.

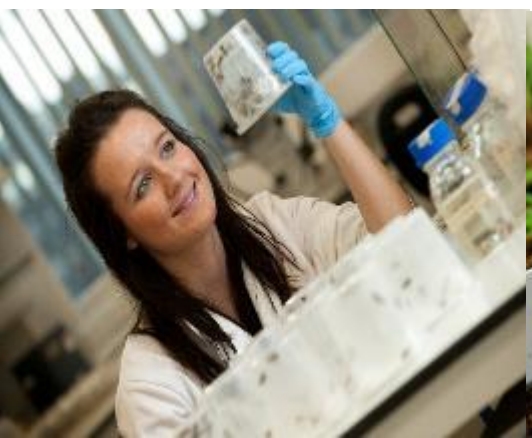
Your application should include:

- 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:

René Frank, Associate Professor & UKRI Future Leader Fellow
Email: r.frank@leeds.ac.uk



Additional information

Find out more about the Faculty of Biological Sciences and the School of Biomedical Sciences

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.

Our University

As an international research-intensive university, we welcome students and staff from all walks of life and from across the world. We foster an inclusive environment where all can flourish and prosper, and we are proud of our strong commitment to student education. Within the Faculty of Biological Sciences we are dedicated to diversifying our community and we welcome the unique contributions that individuals can bring, and particularly encourage applications from, but not limited to Black, Asian, those 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.

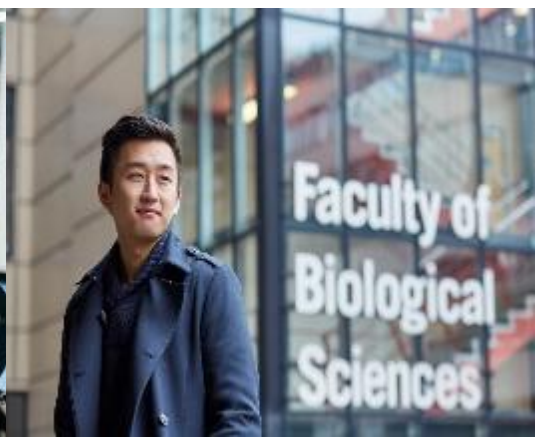
Information for disabled candidates

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

Salary Requirements of the Skilled Worker Visa Route

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.

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.