Faculty of Mathematics and Physical Sciences
School of Physics and Astronomy

University Academic Fellow
Synthetic Biology

With a vision and drive to develop a prestigious internationally competitive research portfolio as well as a passion for undertaking research-led teaching you will make a significant impact on the performance, stature and profile of research and student education at The University of Leeds.

This University Academic Fellowship (UAF) is a tenure track equivalent post for future academic leaders which provides an excellent opportunity to establish an academic career at a research intensive University and play a key role in our ambitious plans for the future.

You will embark on a structured five year development programme, successful completion of which will lead to your appointment as a grade 9 Associate Professor.

Synthetic biology is an emergent field in biological physics and bionanotechnology that either uses non-natural molecules in biological systems or assembles natural biological components to create minimal, non-natural systems. Both approaches can be used to inform our understanding of biological systems or can be used to develop diagnostic tools for diseases. The School of Physics and Astronomy is seeking an experimentalist with strong biophysics background to complement and extend the existing strengths in the area of “minimal systems” or “biology in extreme environments” within the Molecular and Nanoscale Physics (MNP) Group and to complement additional UAF SynBio positions within the faculties of biological sciences and engineering.

We would be particularly interested in candidates who have expertise in:
i) The hierarchical assembly of basic biological building blocks for the construction of minimal functional systems that are involved in light capture or colour change, e.g. chlorosomes, iridophores or other photo-system mimics.

ii) Approaches to examine the structural, dynamical and functional strategies of biological molecules under extreme environmental conditions, including high/low temperature, pressure and extreme solution conditions, and the exploitation of such molecules in the assembly of new biomaterials and functional devices.

We would also welcome applications from those with other synthetic biology interest or with expertise in advanced biophysical techniques that could be used for studying biological systems, from molecules to cells.

You will develop a research profile in the field of Synthetic biology that will contribute to the University's ambition to excel at REF2020, with a sustained record of internationally excellent (and some world-leading) publications. You will also be expected to participate strongly in the development and delivery of relevant educational material/programmes at undergraduate, Masters and PhD level.

You will have a PhD in Physics, Biophysics or a related discipline an excellent track record of research in biological physics in relation to synthetic biology and a commitment to teaching at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels in a research environment.

Career Pathway: Tenure track equivalent post requiring successful completion of a 5 year probationary period leading to appointment to grade 9 Associate Professor.

University Grade 8 (£38,511 to £45,954)

For informal enquiries about the role please contact Professor Stephen Evans, tel: +44 (0)113 343 3852, email: S.D.Evans@leeds.ac.uk or Dr Lorna Dougan tel: +44 (0)113 343 3852, email: L.Dougan@leeds.ac.uk.

Ref: MAPPA1002

Click here for further information about working at the University of Leeds www.leeds.ac.uk/info/20025/university_jobs
Job Description

Reports to: Head of School

Main Duties and Responsibilities

Research, Innovation and Impact

- Pursue a programme of individual and collaborative research, resulting in high quality publications and a national and international profile and engaging with industry as appropriate to attract and co-ordinate major initiatives.
- Promote the integration of your own research area with other research interests and themes, in the school, faculty and University.
- Attract research income on an individual and collaborative basis according to an agreed plan, as appropriate to the field or discipline, to support high quality research activity.
- Develop a strategy to ensure that your research has the potential for impact beyond academia.

Student Education

- Undertake research-led teaching at undergraduate and/or postgraduate level, with engagement in continual improvement in response to student and other feedback.
- Contribute to the design, development and planning of modules and policy within the subject area as required.
- Work in line with the University’s Partnership agreement and with our students as members of a learning community to provide outstanding education and an excellent student experience.

Academic Leadership

- Contribute to the management of the school by taking on appropriate leadership, management and administrative responsibility.
- Lead academic initiatives and projects in research and student education which facilitate school, faculty and/or University development.
- Participate in the recruitment, management and development of staff as well as acting as a mentor to less experienced colleagues.
- Contribute to the development of the discipline or research area, e.g. through organisation of conferences or membership of key bodies setting the strategic direction of the area.

General

- Contribute to the development and achievement of University, faculty and school strategy within the context of an international, research-led
university.

- Become a specialist in the field, developing and maintaining an external profile as appropriate to the discipline.
- Maintain own continuing professional development.
- Carry out the duties of the post in accordance with the University policies, procedures, values and standards, including the Leadership and Management standards.

This job description provides a framework for the role and it may be necessary for a University Academic Fellow to undertake any duties commensurate with the post as might reasonably be required.
Person Specification

Essential

- A PhD (or equivalent qualification) in a relevant field.
- A clear and compelling academic plan that will deliver academic and more general impact at an international level, in order to meet the criteria for progression to Associate Professor within the 5 year probationary period.
- Significant proven research experience within the academic discipline with a developing record of internationally excellent publications.
- A track record of gaining competitive research funding.
- Experience of presenting at national and international conferences and/or symposia.
- Evidence of building strong working relationships within and, as appropriate, beyond your own discipline and to contribute to successful projects and collaborations.
- The potential and commitment to undertake high quality and innovative teaching and gain a higher education teaching qualification or award.
- Experience of delivering and engaging with student education where opportunities have existed.
- A high level of interpersonal and communication skills, and a strong ability to communicate effectively in writing and verbally with students, academic and external audiences.
- The ability to lead projects and organise, balance and prioritise work commitments.

Desirable

- Success in gaining significant independent research funding.
- Experience of leading on projects and initiatives, including managing resources and conflicting priorities within challenging circumstances.
- A growing track record of successful and innovative teaching at both Undergraduate and/or Postgraduate level.
- Experience of involvement in postgraduate research supervision.
- Experience of working collaboratively with external partner organisations.
- Experience of mentoring less experienced colleagues.
University Values

All staff are expected to operate in line with the University’s values and standards, which work as an integral part of our strategy and set out the principles of how we work together. More information about the University’s strategy and values is available at http://www.leeds.ac.uk/comms/strategy/.

Additional Information

The University offers generous terms and conditions of employment, a wide range of benefits, services, facilities and family friendly policies. Full details are available on the Human Resources web pages accessible at www.leeds.ac.uk/hr

The Partnership

The Partnership has been developed by students and staff and describes the mutual expectations of us all as members of the University of Leeds community. More information about the Partnership is available at http://partnership.leeds.ac.uk

Disclosure and Barring Service checks

A Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check is not required for this position. However, applicants who have unspent convictions must indicate this in the ‘other personal details’ section of the application form and send details to the Recruitment Officer at disclosure@leeds.ac.uk.

Disabled Applicants

Disabled applicants wishing to review access to the building are invited to contact the department direct. Additional information may be sought from the Recruitment Officer, email disclosure@leeds.ac.uk or tel + 44 (0)113 343 1723.

Disabled applicants are not obliged to inform employers of their disability but will still be covered by the Equality Act once their disability becomes known.

Further information for applicants with disabilities, impairments or health conditions is available in the applicant guidance.