

Job Description

Please complete all accessible boxes and refer to the guidance on writing Job Descriptions

Position Details	
Faculty/Professional Support Service	Science and Engineering
School/Department	Department of Life Sciences
Division/Section/Unit	
Job Title	Research Associate in Immunology
Vacancy No	5337
Grade	7
Hours of Work	35 hours per week
Contract Duration (Perm/Fixed Term)	Fixed Term (18 months)
Reports To (Job Title)	Deputy Head of Department
Responsible For (Job Title)	

Principal Accountabilities
<p>The main purpose of this Research Associate (RA) role is to undertake a project investigating the influence of platelet-derived eicosanoids on host immune response to fungal infections.</p> <p>The RA will work closely with senior research staff to analyse and prepare research findings which may include dissemination through reports, relevant journals, conferences, and seminars, in order to further the institution's standing in the Higher Education and research community and contribute to the development of new areas of research in the field.</p> <p>Take responsibility for leading the project and co-ordinating others in the laboratory as required and under the overall direction by the project co-ordinator.</p>

Key Tasks
Research Activities

[The Research Associate (RA) will:

Carry out microbial/human cell culture, often working with isolated blood cells.

Perform a range of experimental techniques and associated data analysis in host-microorganism interactions, flow cytometry, microscopy (epifluorescence and confocal) and bioinformatic analysis of lipidomics data.

Plan and prioritise own work and resources to achieve agreed research objectives, coordinating the work of research colleagues or students in the laboratory (as required).

Undertake quality research and detailed analysis, and present findings to appropriate internal and external groups, such as research forums, conferences, or seminars, as required.

Contribute to funding proposals and/or applications to external bodies where appropriate to longer term planning or future direction of research activities.

Use initiative and judgement to develop appropriate techniques in order to facilitate research work and resolve problems affecting the achievement of objectives and deadlines.

Engage in scholarly activities conducive to a long-term successful career that will support and enhance the research culture within the department.

Liaison and Networking

Disseminate findings of research through reports, journals, conferences, and seminars, in order to further the institution's standing in the HE and research community.

Participate in the development of internal and external partnerships and networks in order to disseminate information, share best practice, generate income, establish opportunities for collaborative work, and to enhance the reputation of the University.

Develop and maintain partnerships with external agencies and/or engage in collaborative activities that benefit both the department and the Faculty.

Teaching Support

Supervise the work/projects of taught postgraduate and/or research students as required and provide training on techniques appropriate to the role.

Contribute to teaching support via demonstration of practical methods or operation equipment to undergraduate, masters and/or research students as deemed appropriate.

Service Provision

Keep relevant stakeholders updated on progress, and be responsible for exploring their needs and acting on feedback, in order to ensure that research delivers against their requirements.

Respond to enquiries and requests for information from potential students, academic staff from other HE institutions, and relevant stakeholders, when required.

Collaborate with senior academic staff to organise, manage and carry out appropriate research, and actively contribute to the longer term planning and/or future direction of research projects.

Actively promote quality research and enhance the reputation of the University within the research community.

Proactively and effectively engage with quality assurance procedures to ensure that University standards are upheld.

Teamworking

Actively participate as a member of the research team, providing mutual support to colleagues to achieve successful completion of projects.

Allocate and monitor the work of research students when required.

Offer support to other researchers in research methodology and areas of expertise, and introduce new starters to the area, giving training on basic skills and activities to assist their induction to the team.

Attend Faculty, Department and Programme meetings/boards as appropriate and proactively contribute to decision making.

Guide and support research assistants and other members of staff within the department in areas of expertise e.g. in undertaking research and writing up papers for publication.]

Special Features

[Willingness to travel on business if required. Short terms research visit (1-2 weeks) are expected to be undertaken to visit the Blizard Institute at Queen Mary University of London and the Centre for Molecular and Vascular Biology at Katholieke Universiteit (KU) Leuven.]

Miscellaneous

[You have a legal duty, so far as is reasonably practicable, to ensure that you do not endanger yourself or anyone else by your acts or omissions. In addition you must cooperate with the University on health and safety matters and must not interfere or misuse anything provided for health, safety and welfare purposes.

You are responsible for applying the University's Equal Opportunities Policy in your own area of responsibility and in your general conduct.

You have a responsibility to promote high levels of customer care within your own areas of work.

You are expected to co-operate with the PDR process, engaging in the setting of objectives in order to assist in the monitoring of performance and the development of the individual.

Such other relevant duties commensurate with the grade of the post as may be assigned by the Manager in agreement with you. Such agreement should not be unreasonably withheld.

You may be required to undertake a specific Health & Safety role, commensurate with your grade, to support the University in meeting its statutory Health & Safety obligations. This could include acting as a DSE Assessor, First Aider, Fire Marshall or Departmental Safety Co-ordinator. The allocation of such roles will be subject to the provision of appropriate training and assessment of competence.

You may, with reasonable notice, be required to work at any of the Manchester Metropolitan University sites.

You have the responsibility to engage with the University's commitment to Environmental Sustainability in order to reduce its waste, energy consumption and carbon footprint.

You have the responsibility to engage with the University's commitment to delivering value for money services that optimise the use of resources and therefore should consider this when undertaking all duties and aspects of your role.]

Review

This is a description of the job at the time of issue. It is the University's practice periodically to review and update job descriptions to ensure that they accurately reflect the current nature of the job and requirements of the University and to incorporate reasonable changes where required, in consultation with the job holder.

Person Specification

In order to be shortlisted you must demonstrate that you meet all the essential criteria and as many of the desirable criteria as possible. Where we have a large number of applications that meet all of the essential criteria, we will then use the desirable criteria to produce the shortlist.



All disabled candidates who meet the minimum essential criteria will be included on the shortlist.

Selection Criteria					
Attributes		Item	Relevant Criteria	Identification Method	Rank
1	Skills & Abilities	1.1	Ability to synthesise complex data from different sources and communicate findings orally and via written reports and articles for a range of diverse audiences.	A/I	E
		1.2	Ability to use initiative, creativity and judgement to develop appropriate approaches in order to further research.	A/I	E
		1.3	Ability to lead the work of a research team, co-ordinating effort and resources.	A/I	E
2	General & Specialist Knowledge	2.1	Proficiency in the application of relevant research equipment, software and techniques for immunological and microbiological investigations.	A/I/P	E
		2.2	Possess sufficient breadth or depth knowledge of immunology, platelet/endothelial biology or microbiology, to work within established research projects.	A/I	E
		2.3	Demonstratable specialist knowledge of immunology, platelet/endothelial biology or microbiology, particularly in relation to host-microorganism interactions.	A/I/P	E

3	Education & Training	3.1	Hold, or be nearing completion of a doctoral level qualification in Immunology, Vascular Biology, Microbiology or related area; evidence of continuous professional development.	A/C	E
4	Relevant Experience	4.1	Research experience in immunology, platelet/endothelial biology or microbiology, ideally in relation to host-microorganism interactions, which should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> aseptic technique for both microbial/human cell culture, flow cytometry, microscopy (epifluorescence and confocal) and ideally isolation/functional analysis of blood cells. 	A/I/P	E
		4.2	Additional research experience, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparing manuscripts for publication presenting at national and/or international research meetings preparing funding proposals and applications to external bodies supervising student work and providing appropriate support and feedback developing partnerships with internal and external collaborators or agencies 	A/I	D
5	Special Requirements	5.1	The ability to travel if required (e.g. to conferences or collaborator laboratories in the UK or overseas).	A/I	E
Date of Revision		Aug 2022			
Key		Identification Method		A	Application Form
				I	Interview
				T	Test
				C	Copy of Certificates
				P	Presentation
				G	Group Assessment
		Rank		E	Essential
				D	Desirable