

## THE POST

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| <b>College/Service:</b> | <b>Living Systems Institute - CLES</b> |
| <b>Post:</b>            | <b>Postdoctoral Research Associate</b> |
| <b>Reference No:</b>    | <b>P58906</b>                          |
| <b>Grade:</b>           | <b>E</b>                               |
| <b>HERA:</b>            | <b>ARF</b>                             |
| <b>Reporting To:</b>    | <b>Dr Richard Chahwan</b>              |

The above full-time post is available November 1st 2017 for 2,5 years at the Living Systems Institute.

### **Main purpose of the job:**

Highly motivated Postdoctoral Research Fellows are sought to participate in a BBSRC- and Wellcome Trust/AMS- funded projects in the Chahwan group, at the new [Living Systems Institute](#) - Exeter, to investigate the role of chromatin modifications in the maintenance of genomic stability, antibody diversification, and their consequences on disease development.

### **Job Description**

The successful applicant(s) will be conducting this work in a vibrant and enthusiastic research environment with the potential to spend time in New York City as part of an ongoing collaboration. For recent examples of our work, please see Wei et al., PNAS 112(7):E728-37 (2015); Chahwan/Schaetzlein et al., PNAS 110(27):E2470-9 (2013); Chahwan et al., JEM 209(4):671-8 (2012); Chahwan/Ramachandran et al., PNAS 107(2):809-14 (2010); Chahwan et al., TIGS 26(10):443-8 (2010); and Kolas et al., Science 318(5856):1637-40 (2007).

The ideal candidate(s) will have a doctorate in molecular biology, biochemistry, immunology or a related science; and first author publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals commensurate with research experience. A high level of technical competence and considerable experience in tissue culture techniques and in vivo procedures, and experience in standard molecular, biochemical, and immunological techniques are also important requirements. Prior experience in the DNA damage response and/or immunity fields would be especially desirable, though not an absolute requirement. Similarly, an experience of recent work as a Home Office (or equivalent) Personal License holder would also be desirable.

The successful applicant(s) will be able to develop research objectives, projects and proposals; identify sources of research funding and contribute to the process of securing funds and make presentations at conferences and other events. Applicants will possess sufficient specialist knowledge in the discipline to develop research programmes and methodologies. Applicants will also be able to work collaboratively, supervise the work of others and act as team leader as required.

### **Main duties and accountabilities:**

1. To undertake research as appropriate to the field of study including:
  - Acting as principal investigator on research projects;
  - Developing research objectives, projects and proposals;
  - Conducting individual or collaborative research projects;

- Identifying sources of funding and contributing to the process of securing funds;
  - Extending, transforming and applying knowledge acquired from scholarship to research and appropriate external activities;
  - Writing or contributing to publications or disseminating research findings using media appropriate to the discipline;
  - Making presentations at conferences or exhibiting work in other appropriate events;
  - Assessing, interpreting and evaluating outcomes of research;
  - Developing new concepts and ideas to extend intellectual understanding;
  - Resolving problems of meeting research objectives and deadlines;
  - Developing ideas for generating income and promoting research area;
  - Developing ideas for application of research outcomes;
  - Deciding on research programmes and methodologies, often in collaboration with colleagues and sometimes subject to the approval of the head of the research programme on fundamental issues.
2. To contribute to teaching and learning programmes in the School and to supervise postgraduate research students.
3. To act as research team leader including:
- Mentoring colleagues with less experience and advising on their professional development;
  - Coaching and supporting colleagues in developing their research techniques;
  - Supervising the work of others, for example in research teams or projects;
  - Developing productive working relationships with other members of staff;
  - Co-ordinating the work of colleagues to ensure equitable access to resources and facilities;
  - Dealing with standard problems and help colleagues to resolve their concerns about progress in research.
4. To routinely communicate complex and conceptual ideas to those with limited knowledge as well as to peers using high level skills and a range of media and to present the results of scientific research to sponsors and at conferences.
5. To plan, co-ordinate and implement research programmes including:
- Managing the use of research resources and ensure that effective use is made of them;
  - Managing research budgets;
  - Helping to plan and implement commercial and consultancy activities;
  - Planning and managing own consultancy assignments.

This job description summarises the main duties and accountabilities of the post and is not comprehensive: the post-holder may be required to undertake other duties of similar level and responsibility. Please visit the Human Resources website to view the Research Fellow role profiles.

### **Person Specification**

| <b>Competency</b>          | <b>Essential</b>  | <b>Desirable</b>                                     |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| Attainments/Qualifications | Be a nationally recognised authority in the subject area.<br>PhD (or be nearing completion) or equivalent qualification/experience in a related field of study.                 |  |
| Skills and Understanding   | Possess sufficient specialist knowledge in the discipline to develop research programmes and methodologies.<br>Record of research output in nationally recognised publications. |  |
| Prior Experience           | Experience of teaching at undergraduate level.  | Experience of postgraduate teaching and supervision. |

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|                             | Experience of managing research projects and research teams. Successful in obtaining grant funding.  | Experience of acting as principal investigator on research projects. |
| Behavioural Characteristics | Excellent written and verbal communication skills.<br>Able to communicate complex and conceptual ideas to a range of groups.<br>Evidence of the ability to collaborate actively within the Institution and externally to complete research projects and advance thinking.<br>Able to participate in and develop external networks.<br>Able to identify sources of funding, generate income, obtain consultancy projects, or build relationships for future activities.<br>Able to balance the pressures of research, administrative demands and competing deadlines. |  |

**Informal Enquiries**

Before submitting an application you may wish to discuss the post further by contacting Dr Richard Chahwan, telephone (01392 723104) or email [r.chahwan@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:r.chahwan@exeter.ac.uk).

**Terms & Conditions**

Our Terms and Conditions of Employment can be viewed [here](#).

**Further Information**

Please see our [website](#) for further information on working at the University of Exeter.