



THE POST

College:	College of Engineering, Mathematics, and Physical Sciences (Living Systems Institute)
Post:	Postdoctoral Research Associate / Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Reference No:	P62342
Grade:	E/F
Reporting To:	Dr Kirsty Wan

The above full-time post is available from **13th August 2018 for two years** in the first instance, in the College of Engineering Mathematics and Physical Sciences (LSI).

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Main purpose of the job:

The successful applicant will join the group of Dr Kirsty Wan, which specialises in researching the biophysics of cellular motility in species of ciliated or flagellated microorganisms. You will help develop, implement and optimise novel live-cell imaging and cell-manipulation technology to investigate, perturb and analyse the behaviour and function of eukaryotic cilia. The project will be aligned with the aims and objectives of an exciting new research project funded by an AMS Springboard Award, entitled: "Genesis and control of ciliary beating: a new look at an ancient organelle." The project will be highly interdisciplinary and will involve collaboration with international partners.

Applicants should have relevant expertise which may include (but not restricted to): experimental or theoretical biophysics, biological engineering, quantitative or computational biology, neuroscience or physiology. Those with a strong theoretical background but no prior lab experience may also be considered.

Main duties and accountabilities:

1. To undertake research as appropriate to the field of study including:
 - Writing up research work for publication;
 - Developing research objectives and proposals for own or joint research;
 - Making presentations at national and international conferences and similar events;
 - Dealing with problems which may affect the achievement of research objectives and deadlines;
 - Analysing and interpreting the results of own research and generating original ideas based on outcomes;
 - Using new research techniques and methods;
 - Using initiative and creativity to identify areas for research, developing new research methods and extending the research portfolio;
 - Using creativity to analyse and interpret research data and draw conclusions on the outcomes.
2. To contribute to teaching and to be involved in the assessment of student knowledge including assisting in the supervision of student projects and in the development of student research skills.
3. To work in collaboration with colleagues as appropriate to the field of study including:
 - Contributing to collaborative decision making within the research group;
 - Contributing to the production of collaborative research reports and publications.

- Preparing papers and presenting information on research progress and outcomes to bodies supervising research, e.g. steering groups.
4. To communicate complex information, orally, in writing and electronically.
 5. To prepare proposals and applications to external bodies, e.g. for funding and contractual purposes
 6. To contribute to the planning of research projects.
 7. To use research resources, laboratories and workshops as appropriate and to take responsibility for reducing hazards and for the health and safety of others. Where appropriate, will also be responsible for conducting risk assessments.
 8. To monitor research budgets as appropriate.
 9. To engage in continuous professional development and to be responsible for continually updating knowledge and understanding in field of study or specialism and for developing skills.

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

Competency	Essential	Desirable
Attainments/Qualifications	PhD (or nearing completion) or equivalent qualification/experience in a related field of study in a quantitative discipline, e.g. Physics, Biophysics, Applied Mathematics, Engineering, Computer Science, Biological Engineering, or Neuroscience.	
Skills and Understanding	<p>Sufficient knowledge in the discipline and of research methods and techniques to work within established research programmes.</p> <p>Excellent attention to detail when performing experiments or carrying out instructions.</p> <p>Excellent communication skills (written and oral).</p>	<p>Evidence of research activity and published research is highly desirable (preprints will be considered).</p> <p>Good programming skills in any programming language, e.g. Matlab, Python. Experience with machine learning/deep learning for image or data analysis.</p> <p>Knowledge of biological physics, soft matter or statistical physics, fluid mechanics.</p> <p>Familiarity with optics, microscope design and programmable control of lab equipment.</p> <p>Familiarity or experience with designing, making, and using microfluidic devices for cell manipulation.</p>
Prior Experience	Understanding of health and safety legislation.	Familiarity with microelectrode techniques and carrying out

		<p>electrophysiological measurements.</p> <p>Experience with cell biology experiments and working in a wet lab.</p>
Behavioural Characteristics	<p>Excellent written and verbal communication skills.</p> <p>Able to communicate material of a specialist or highly technical nature.</p> <p>Able to manage research and administrative activities and to balance the competing pressures of research and administrative demands and deadlines.</p> <p>Able to liaise with colleagues and students.</p> <p>Able to build contacts and participate in internal and external networks for the exchange of information and collaboration.</p> <p>Able to identify potential sources of funding.</p> <p>Actively participate as a member of a research team Engage in continuous professional development.</p> <p>Understand equal opportunity issues as they may impact on areas of research content Where appropriate to the role, willingness to undergo training in order to conduct risk assessments.</p>	<p>Willingness to engage flexibly with unusual or creative concepts/methodologies.</p> <p>Passionate about interdisciplinary, curiosity-driven research.</p>
Circumstances	Willing to work flexibly to achieve project demands	

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOW

Main duties and accountabilities:

1. To undertake research as appropriate to the field of study. The responsibilities may include all or some of the following:
 - 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 /following 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. As determined by the nature of the project and at the direction of the PI, to plan, co-ordinate and implement research programme activity including:
- Managing the use of research resources and ensuring that effective use is made of them;
 - Monitoring and reporting on the use of research budgets;
 - Helping to plan and implement commercial and consultancy activities;
 - Where appropriate, to plan and manage 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

Competency	Essential	Desirable
Attainments/Qualifications	PhD or equivalent qualification/experience in a related field of study, e.g. Physics, Applied Mathematics, Engineering, Computer Science, Biological Engineering, Neuroscience. Be a nationally recognised authority in the subject area.	
Skills and Understanding	Possess sufficient specialist knowledge in the discipline to develop/follow research programmes and methodologies.	Good programming skills in any programming language, e.g. Matlab, Python. Experience with machine learning/deep learning for image or data analysis.

	Excellent communication skills (written and oral).	Record of research output in nationally recognised journal on the subject of biophysics (broadly defined). Knowledge of biological physics, soft matter or statistical physics, fluid mechanics. Familiarity with optics, microscope design and programmable control of lab equipment. Familiarity or experience with designing, making, and using microfluidic devices for cell manipulation.
Prior Experience	Experience of managing research projects and research teams.	Familiarity with microelectrode techniques and carrying out electrophysiological measurements. Experience of teaching at undergraduate level. Successful in obtaining grant funding. Experience with cell biology experiments and working in a wet lab.
Behavioural Characteristics	Excellent written and verbal communication skills. Able to communicate complex and conceptual ideas to a range of groups. Evidence of the ability to collaborate actively within the Institution and externally to complete research projects and advance thinking. Able to participate in and develop external networks. Able to balance the pressures of research, administrative demands and competing deadlines.	Able to identify sources of funding, generate income, obtain consultancy projects, or build relationships for future activities. Willingness to engage flexibly with unusual or creative concepts/methodologies. Passionate about interdisciplinary, curiosity-driven research.
Circumstances	Willing to work flexibly to achieve project demands.	

Informal Enquiries

Before submitting an application you may wish to discuss the post further by contacting Dr Kirsty Wan (web: www.micromotility.com), telephone (+44 (0)1392 727447) or email k.y.wan2@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.