



THE POST

College:	College of Engineering, Mathematics and Physical Sciences
Post:	Postdoctoral Research Associate (PDRA) / Research Fellow (PDRF)
Reference No:	P67123
Grade:	E / F
HERA:	ARF / RF
Reporting To:	Prof Janet Anders
Responsible For:	stochastic thermodynamics theory (fluctuation relations for single molecule experiments)

Job Description

Main purpose of the job:

You will contribute to an UKRI-funded project on *Molecular Mechanics*, working in the group of Prof Janet Anders in the Department of Physics and Astronomy. The position is part of an ambitious theory-experiment project together with Prof Frank Vollmer and other team members. The project will advance the detection and manipulation of conformational changes of enzymes to the single-molecule level using a whispering gallery mode sensor system.

Prof Anders' theoretical physics group works on topics in classical stochastic thermodynamics and quantum thermodynamics. <https://emps.exeter.ac.uk/physics-astronomy/staff/ja343>

Prof Vollmer's laboratory pioneers optical sensors and spectrometers that visualise and detect processes at the micro- and nanoscale. <http://emps.exeter.ac.uk/physics-astronomy/staff/fv227>

This job requires expert knowledge in at least one of the following areas: stochastic thermodynamics, in particular fluctuation relations and their use in experiments measuring molecular forces, statistical physics, quantum thermodynamics or a related area. Experience in applying fluctuation theorems to analyse experimental data and extract nanoscale/molecular properties is a plus. The successful applicant will join the theoretical physics team, and use and generalise fluctuation relations to interpret measured fluctuations and help associate energetic changes with specific conformational changes.

Main duties and accountabilities (Postdoctoral Research Associates):

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 (Postdoctoral Research Associate)

Competency	Essential	Desirable
Attainments/Qualifications	PhD (or nearing completion) or equivalent qualification/experience in a related field of study.	
Skills and Understanding	Sufficient knowledge in the discipline and of research methods and techniques to work within established research programmes.	Evidence of research activity and published research.
Prior Experience	Understanding of health and safety legislation.	Experience of undergraduate teaching.
Behavioural Characteristics	<p>Pro-actively pursue research and participate as a member of a research team.</p> <p>Able to advance thinking and complete research projects.</p> <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>Engage in continuous professional development.</p> <p>Understand equal opportunity issues as they may impact on areas of research content.</p> <p>Where appropriate to the role, willingness to undergo training in order to conduct risk assessments.</p>	
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Main duties and accountabilities (Postdoctoral Research Fellow)

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.

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Person Specification (Postdoctoral Research Fellow)

Competency	Essential	Desirable
Attainments/Qualifications	PhD or equivalent qualification/experience in a related field of study.	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. Record of research output in high quality publications.	
Prior Experience	Experience of managing research projects and research teams.	Experience of undergraduate / postgraduate teaching and supervision. Experience of acting as principal investigator on research projects.
Behavioural Characteristics	Pro-actively pursue research and participate as a member of a research team. Able to advance thinking and complete research projects. 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. 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.

Informal Enquiries

If your CV does not fulfil each and every specification you may nevertheless apply. If you wish to discuss the post further please contact Prof Janet Anders by email j.anders@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.