

Candidate Information

Position:	Research Assistant
School/Department:	School of Pharmacy
Reference:	19/107834
Closing Date:	Wednesday 23 October 2019
Salary:	£28,331 to £32,817 per annum.
Anticipated Interview Date:	Thursday 7 November 2019
Duration:	Available until 31 August 2022

JOB PURPOSE:

To become an active member in the Natural Drug Discovery Group, School of Pharmacy, QUB, engaged in interdisciplinary studies of bioactive peptides using biochemistry and cell biology approaches with a focus on two main areas: (i) isolation and synthesis of novel venom-derived bioactive peptides and (ii) testing their biological activities and stability using a range of bioassays including vascular smooth muscle contraction assays, and mass spectrometry.

In addition the Research Assistant will contribute to the demonstration of experiment skills to the postgraduate and undergraduate students in the laboratory, assist with managing day-to-day laboratory activities, research instrumentation and organising the biological samples and reagents of the laboratory, while placing an emphasis on personal learning, scientific integrity and team player skills.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Undertake research activities that may include fieldwork, laboratory experiments, computer-based data analysis and evaluation, or library research in consultation with the supervisor.
2. Present research progress reports to members of the research group regularly or to external audiences to disseminate and publicise research findings.
3. Write up results of own work and contribute to the production of research reports, publications and proposals.
4. Contribute to introductory courses, for example, on the use of research methods and equipment.
5. Carry out undergraduate/postgraduate supervision/demonstrating/teaching duties under direction.
6. Carry out routine administrative duties as requested, e.g. arranging research group meetings, maintaining research group website.
7. Carry out any other duties designated by a line manager, which fall within the general ambit of the post.

Planning and Organising:

1. Plan own day-to-day activity within the framework of the agreed research programme.
2. Contribute to the planning of research projects, reports and publications etc, usually 1-6 months in advance.
3. Read academic papers, journals and textbooks to keep abreast of developments.

Resource Management Responsibilities:

1. Ensure research resources are used in an effective and efficient manner.
2. Provide guidance as required to support staff and any students who may be assisting with research.
3. Carry out routine administrative duties as requested.

Internal and External Relationships:

1. Liaise with research colleagues and support staff on routine matters.
2. Make internal and external contacts to develop knowledge and understanding and form relationships for future collaboration.
3. Attend and contribute to relevant meetings.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Degree or equivalent in a relevant area.
2. Minimum of one year's recent relevant work experience to include relevant experience of mass spectrometry, molecular cloning, peptide synthesis and vascular smooth muscle contraction assays.
3. Willingness to contribute to supervision, mentoring and support on research projects.
4. Ability to contribute to the School and project outreach activities in a professional manner
5. Ability to logically conceptualise and summarise the research findings and data
6. Ability to interact with research colleagues and support staff.
7. Ability to analyse and communicate effectively.
8. Ability to analyse data and communicate effectively.
9. Strong analytical and problem solving skills.
10. Ability to build contacts and participate in internal and external networks
11. Due to the nature of the role, flexibility of working hours will be required.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Post graduate qualification in a relevant area.
2. 2 years' recent relevant work experience.
3. Experience of using mass spectrometry to analyse peptide degradation.
4. Experience of postgraduate supervision.
5. Experience of presenting results in front of peers, meetings or conferences.