

## Candidate Information

<b>Position:</b>	Research Assistant
<b>School/Department:</b>	Pharmacy
<b>Reference:</b>	21/108995
<b>Closing Date:</b>	Monday 26 July 2021
<b>Salary:</b>	£28,331 - £32,817 per annum
<b>Anticipated Interview Date:</b>	Friday 6 August 2021
<b>Duration:</b>	Fixed term contract for three years up to 31 August 2024

### JOB PURPOSE:

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

### MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Develop and plan an area of personal research and expertise, and/or undertake research under supervision within the Natural Drug Discovery Group.
2. Design, develop and refine experimental apparatus, field research or experiments in order to obtain reliable data.
3. To 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.
4. Carry out analyses, critical evaluations, and interpretations using methodologies and other techniques appropriate to area of research.
5. Train and supervise of postgraduate students in molecular/analytical/microbiological/cell biological technologies appropriate for the study of venom peptides.
6. Undertake research activities that may include fieldwork, laboratory experiments, computer-based data analysis and evaluation, or library research in consultation with the supervisor.
7. Present research progress reports to members of the research group regularly or to external audiences to disseminate and publicise research findings.
8. Collate research data from own work and contribute to the production of research reports, publications and proposals.
9. Prepare, often in consultation with supervisor, material for publication in national and international journals and presentations at international conferences.
10. Assist grant holder in the preparation of funding proposals and applications to external bodies.
11. Contribute to introductory courses, for example, on the use of research methods and equipment.
12. Carry out undergraduate/postgraduate supervision/demonstration/teaching duties under direction.
13. Carry out routine administrative duties as requested, e.g. arranging research group meetings, maintaining research group website.
14. Read academic papers, journals and textbooks to keep abreast of developments.
15. Carry out any other duties designated by a line manager, which fall within the general ambit of the post.
16. Willing to travel abroad if required to meet research partners, particularly in China.

### 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. Coordinate and liaise with other members of the research group over work progress.

### Resource Management Responsibilities:

1. Ensure research resources are used in an effective and efficient manner.
2. Provide guidance as required to support staff 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. Have a degree in a molecular-based life science discipline.
2. Minimum of 1 years recent relevant research experience to include:
  - Experience of MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry, solid phase peptide synthesis, antimicrobial study and vascular smooth muscle contraction assays.
3. Demonstration of ability to contribute to broader management and administrative processes.
4. Sufficient breadth and depth of specialist knowledge in the discipline and of research methods and techniques to work within established research programmes.
5. Excellent oral and written communication skills.
6. Ability to logically conceptualise and summarise the research findings and data.
7. Ability to interact with research colleagues and support staff.
8. Ability to build contacts and participate in internal and external networks.
9. Strong analytical and problem-solving skills.
10. Scientific integrity.
11. Demonstrable team player.
12. Willingness to travel to China once per annum as required.
13. Flexibility of working hours.

**DESIRABLE CRITERIA:**

1. Have, or be about to obtain, a PhD or another post graduate qualification in a molecular-based life science discipline.
2. Experience of molecular cloning and cell-based anticancer research.
3. Publication record commensurate with career stage.
4. Working knowledge of Mandarin.
5. Experience of presenting results in front of peers, meetings or conferences.