

Candidate Information

Position:	Research Assistant - NHS Asymptomatic Testing Lab in the School of Pharmacy
School/Department:	University General
Reference:	22/109518
Closing Date:	Monday 31 January 2022
Salary:	£28,756 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date:	Tuesday 8 February 2022
Duration:	3 months with possibility of extension or available until 24/04/2022

JOB PURPOSE:

As part of the UK Covid Mass Testing Programme, Queen's University have partnered with local NHS Trusts in Northern Ireland to deliver a testing service for asymptomatic NHS staff. Frontline staff are able to obtain a Covid-19 saliva test using the OptiGene Direct Loop-Mediated Isothermal Amplification (LAMP) assay via their place of work.

We have a LAMP testing laboratory set up at the Medical Biology Centre which is processing samples for healthcare staff in the Belfast, Southern and South-Eastern Trusts. We are now recruiting additional staff to perform this vitally important testing.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Ensuring the continued safe and clinically compliant operation of the end-to-end LAMP assay based on a standard operating procedure (aliquoting of samples, reaction mix preparation in a clean room, processing of samples, interpretation of results).
2. Authorising results in a timely manner.
3. Working in Containment Level 2 laboratories following local code of practice.
4. Assisting in the disposal of samples in accordance with all relevant guidelines.
5. Ensuring the continued safe and clinically compliant operation of the end-to-end LAMP assay based on a standard operating procedure (aliquoting of samples, reaction mix preparation in a clean room, processing of samples, interpretation of results).

Planning and Organising:

1. Plan own day-to-day activity within the framework of the agreed testing programme.
2. Contribute to the planning of projects, reports and publications etc.

Resource Management Responsibilities:

1. Ensure research resources are used in the most effective and efficient manner.
2. Provide guidance as required to support staff and any students who may be assisting with research.

Internal and External Relationships:

1. Liaise with research colleagues and support staff on routine matters.
2. Attend and contribute to relevant meetings.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Degree in Microbiology, Pharmacy, Microbial Ecology, Molecular Microbiology, Bioinformatics, Biochemistry or related discipline.
2. Have 1 year relevant experience working in a laboratory setting.
3. Ability to carry out routine administrative tasks associated with the project.
4. Ability to communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing.
5. Have excellent attention to detail, communication and team-working skills.
6. Ability to present scientific arguments and data in a clear, concise and confident manner.
7. Present regular reports on results to members of the LAMP Testing programme.

8. A calm and conscientious scientist, able to work in a disciplined manner within a team environment.
9. Be highly adaptable and capable of working comfortably across all sections of the laboratory.
10. Maintain effective communication with line managers and to demonstrate a positive attitude to the work of the laboratory and other members of the team.
11. Willing to handle samples, which may contain potentially harmful pathogens.
12. Willing to work shifts which may be outside normal office hours.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Experience in handling clinical samples.