

Candidate Information

Position:	Research Assistant
School/Department:	School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences
Reference:	24/111892
Closing Date:	Monday 24 June 2024
Salary:	£32,024 - £36,744 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date:	Wednesday 3 July 2024
Duration:	Fixed Term Contract available until 31 December 2024

JOB PURPOSE:

We are seeking a highly motivated research assistant to provide laboratory support for projects supported by the recently established Queen's University Medicines Accelerator (QuMED) programme. QuMED is a new initiative established to support the development of early-stage drug discovery projects originating at Queen's University Belfast (QUB). The successful candidate will work with QuMED partners assisting in the planning and delivery of research activities supporting QuMED funded activities. This post is available up to December 2024 in the first instance and will be based in the Patrick G. Johnston Centre for Cancer Research (PGJCCR).

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Assist within a research team to support laboratory research activities within the group.
2. Perform a broad range of cellular and molecular biology experiments to investigate the mechanism of action and on-target activity of novel drug candidates and determine sensitive models of disease for the clinical positioning of therapeutic agents.
3. Perform cell culture experiments which will include transfections and drug screening activities.
4. Conduct critical evaluation and analysis of data generated and maintain accurate records of all work undertaken.
5. Write up results of own work and present regular progress reports on research to members of the research group and to external audiences, when appropriate, to disseminate research findings.
6. Comply with Health and Safety procedures affecting self and others and ensure the work area is clean and safe at all times.
7. Carry out any other duties designated by a line manager, and which fall within the general remit of the post.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Degree or equivalent in subject relevant to research activity e.g. Molecular biology, Biochemistry, Biomedical Sciences, or a related area.
2. Significant relevant laboratory research experience.
3. Practical experience in a range of cellular and molecular biology techniques including:
 - Experience working with in vitro cell culture models.
 - Experience with a range of molecular techniques, such as PCR, qPCR, WB.
4. Sufficient breadth or depth of specialist knowledge in the discipline and of research methods and techniques to work within the cancer drug discovery area.
5. Excellent record keeping skills to facilitate internal auditing and external reporting.
6. Ability to contribute to method improvement where required.
7. Ability to interact with research colleagues and support staff.
8. Good communication and interpersonal skills.
9. Ability to analyse and communicate complex information effectively.
10. Demonstrable intellectual ability and awareness of the scientific literature in the research area.
11. Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
12. Ability to plan and schedule workload responding to new pressures and adjusting to project priorities as necessary.
13. Must be willing to work irregular hours when necessary for the progress of the research project.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. PhD or post graduate qualification in biomedical sciences, cancer biology, immunology, or a related field.
2. 3 years relevant laboratory research experience.
3. Experience making viral delivery systems, stable cell lines, CRISPR/Cas9 and cloning.
4. Experience with cell-based reporter assays.
5. Knowledge of relevant health and safety issues and of COSHH regulations.
6. Background research interests which are compatible with the post.
7. Willingness and enthusiasm to develop and maintain productive relationships with lab members and collaborators.