

Candidate Information

Position: Research Fellow
School/Department: School of Pharmacy
Reference: 25/112836
Closing Date: Monday 6 October 2025
Salary: £41,519 - £45,349 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date: Wednesday 22 October 2025
Duration: 2 years or until 30 November 2027, whichever is earlier

JOB PURPOSE:

To be an active member of the research group led by Dr Stephen Kelly, including mentoring and training of other group members. The role will focus primarily on using microbial bioinformatics techniques to achieve research aims associated with a project investigating the development of urinary tract infection in kidney transplant patients.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Carry out bioinformatic analysis on large genomic datasets, with comparisons to associated metadata. This will include development of analysis pipelines and interpretation of whole genome and metagenomic sequence data.
2. Carry out analyses, critical evaluations, and interpretations using methodologies and other techniques appropriate to the area of research, including qPCR, whole-genome sequencing, microbial culturing and antimicrobial resistance screening.
3. Present regular progress reports to the research team and external audiences to publicise research findings.
4. Maintain links with collaborators, project mentors and commercial partners.
5. Engage in scholarly activity e.g. conference paper presentations, publications.
6. Carry out routine administrative tasks associated with the research project to ensure that project is completed on time and within budget. These might include organisation of project meetings and documentation, financial control, risk assessment of research activities.
7. Carry out occasional supervision of other research staff and students associated with the project.
8. Read academic papers, journals and textbooks to keep abreast of developments in own specialism and related disciplines.
9. Any other reasonable duties within the general remit of the post.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Have or be about to obtain* a PhD in Microbiology, Pharmacy, Bioinformatics or related biological/biomedical discipline (must be obtained within 3 months of commencement of employment).
2. Relevant research experience to include the following:
 - Extensive evidence of recent experience in performing bioinformatic analyses on large genomic datasets and associated metadata.
 - Recent relevant experience and knowledge in molecular microbiology including high-throughput nucleic acid extraction system and qPCR.
 - Recent relevant experience in aseptic technique, microbial culturing, high-throughput antimicrobial susceptibility testing and microbial identification, and working with pathogens.
 - Publication record commensurate with stage of career.
 - Interest in interdisciplinary research.
3. Ability to manage own research project including working to deadlines and being accountable for deliverables.
4. Ability to assess and organise resources.
5. Willingness to train and mentor other researchers, including PhD students.
6. Sufficient breadth and depth of specialist knowledge in the discipline and of research methods and techniques to work within established research programmes.
7. Ability to communicate complex information clearly.

8. Have excellent attention to detail, communication and team-working skills.
9. Ability to work efficiently as a team member and be highly motivated.
10. Ability to build contacts and participate in internal and external networks.
11. Willing to handle samples, which may contain potentially harmful pathogens.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Evidence of having presented at conferences (poster and/or oral presentations).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Informal Enquiries to Brendan Gilmore (b.gilmore@qub.ac.uk)