

## Candidate Information

<b>Position:</b>	Research Fellow
<b>School/Department:</b>	School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences
<b>Reference:</b>	26/113096
<b>Closing Date:</b>	Sunday 15 February 2026
<b>Salary:</b>	£41,519 per annum
<b>Anticipated Interview Date:</b>	Friday, 27 February 2026
<b>Duration:</b>	36 months

### JOB PURPOSE:

A postdoctoral position within the RNA Biology Group, led by Dr Seyed Mehdi Jafarnejad, to study the role of a mechanism of regulation of mRNA translation in controlling the innate immune response to viral infections and DNA damage. The project is in close collaboration with Professor Alfredo Castello at University of Glasgow and Drs Sarah Maguire and Rebecca Coll at QUB. The successful applicant will employ molecular biology techniques and high-throughput assays (e.g. ribosome profiling, RNA-Seq, CLIP, cytokine array) to study this mechanism and how modifying it alters cellular responses to immune triggers such as viruses or genotoxic stress.

### MAJOR DUTIES:

1. To design, develop and execute studies related to the project, obtain reliable data, evaluate and interpret the results using methodologies and techniques appropriate to the area of the research, under the supervision of the PI.
2. Provide reports and participate and take a leadership role in writing manuscripts and publication of the research findings.
3. Participate in application for new sources of funding, and formulate, write, and submit applications for grants, fellowship awards, project and travel support.
4. Generate and maintain new and existing cell models.
5. Initiate, maintain, and expand collaborative links with project partners.
6. Present regular progress reports on research to members of the research group and to external audiences to disseminate and publicise research findings.
7. Carry out undergraduate and/or MSc supervision within the post holder's area of expertise and under the guidance of the PI.
8. Carry out routine administrative tasks associated with the research project/s and maintenance of the lab to ensure that project/s are completed on time and within budget. These tasks will be done in coordination with the PI and other lab members.
9. Read academic papers, journals and textbooks to keep up to date with developments in own specialism and related disciplines.
10. Coordinate own research findings in light of ongoing research within the group and the collaborators, to facilitate teamwork and overall progress of the group's research focus and productivity.
11. Any other reasonable duties within the general ambit of the post.

### ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Hold or be about to obtain\* a PhD in molecular biology, cell biology, biochemistry, immunology, virology or a related discipline.  
\*must be obtained within 3 months of closing date of post
2. Significant relevant research experience (inclusive of PhD studies) with publication record commensurate with experience in the fields of RNA biology, translational control, or RNA decay.
3. Experienced in a range of molecular and cellular biology techniques, such as PCR, CRISPR, site-directed mutagenesis, western blot, flow cytometry, ELISA.
4. Sufficient breadth and depth of specialist knowledge in the discipline and of research methods and techniques to work within established research project.
5. Ability to communicate complex information clearly.
6. Ability to build contacts and participate in internal and external networks.
7. Demonstrable intellectual ability.

8. Ability to assess and organise resources.
9. Team worker, self-motivated, supportive of junior colleagues within the group.
10. Interest and independence in driving focussed research programme.
11. Ability to work under pressure involves dealing with tight deadlines.
12. Willingness to work irregular hours when necessary for the progress of the research project.
13. Must be prepared to travel for technical training as appropriate to collaborators and attending national and international conferences.

**DESIRABLE CRITERIA:**

1. 1st Class undergraduate degree in biochemistry, molecular biology, or related discipline.
2. Experience in RNA-Seq, Ribo-Seq, CLIP, and other high-throughput assays.
3. Experienced with iPSC culture models.
4. Experience in FACS analyses.
5. Evidence of involvement in successful programmes and grant applications.
6. Presentations at national/international meetings.