

Candidate Information

Position: Research Assistant in Computational Cancer Biology
School/Department: School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences
Reference: 26/113113
Closing Date: Monday 23 February 2026
Salary: £35,136 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date: Tuesday 10 March 2026
Duration: 12 months

JOB PURPOSE:

We have a research assistant post to work within the research team under supervision of Dr Philip Dunne based. The successful candidate will become an integral member of a dynamic, collaborative and well-equipped research group that puts a strong focus on interdisciplinary research. Our group provides a stimulating research environment where development of new ideas is strongly encouraged, alongside support for career development for emerging talents.

Our group is primarily focussed on biological discovery and identification of molecular signalling and/or morphological phenotypes that will enable improved understanding of disease. This approach involves a combination of molecular biology, computational analysis and pathological assessment, enabling an integrated evaluation of the tumour ecosystem. The overarching goals of this research group is to improve survival rates for patients with CRC, through improved understanding of the signalling pathways underpinning initiation, invasion and metastasis in CRC.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Assist in the design, develop and execute molecular stratification studies using colorectal cancer datasets.
2. To interrogate transcriptional signalling using datasets derived from bulk, single cell and spatial transcriptomics.
3. To evaluate and interpret the results in the context of the most up to date colorectal cancer research findings.
4. Present regular progress reports on research to members of the research group and to external collaborative networks.
5. Contribute to the production of research publications and proposals.
6. Carry out postgraduate student supervision within the post holder's area of expertise and under the guidance of a member of academic staff.
7. Carry out routine administrative tasks associated with the research project/s to ensure that project/s are completed on time and within budget. These might include organisation of project meetings and documentation, financial control, risk assessment of research activities.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Degree or equivalent in subject relevant to research activity, including cancer bioinformatics.
2. Relevant research experience with molecular interrogation of transcriptomics cancer datasets.
3. Demonstrable experience in molecular stratification of cancer (e.g. publications, preprints) using bulk and single cell transcriptomic data.
4. Experience with single cell datasets, to include characterisation of phenotypes related to tumour evolution and trajectory analyses.
5. Demonstrable experience with method development, particularly with single cell and spatial transcriptomics data.
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 interact with research colleagues and support staff.
8. Ability to analyse and communicate effectively.
9. Demonstrable interdisciplinary skillset related to translational cancer research.
10. Understanding of limitations with methodologies regularly used in molecular data analysis.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. MSc in Bioinformatics with a cancer-focussed research project.
2. Hold (or about to obtain) a PhD in cancer biology that includes a major component of bioinformatics analysis of cancer.
3. Co-authored publications in the cancer research journal.