

Candidate Information

Position: Professor of Cancer Immunology
School/Department: School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences
Reference: 26/113635
Closing Date: Monday 21 September 2026
Salary: Salary will be determined in accordance with the Professorial ranges as applied within the University.
Anticipated Interview Date: Monday 16 November 2026
Duration: Permanent

JOB PURPOSE:

The principal aim of the Professor of Cancer Immunology is to provide leadership in the development and delivery of an innovative research programme in the field of Cancer Immunology at Queen's University Belfast. The position will be primarily based in the JCRC in Queen's University's School of Medicine Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences (SMDBS). The post will contribute to strategic objectives relating to research, education, innovation and impact and is aligned with investments in Belfast Region City Deal which aim to create an integrated ecosystem for health and life sciences.

This will initially be a part-time position (0.5FTE) for 3 years with the opportunity to increase to a full-time position after that time.

MAJOR DUTIES:

Teaching:

1. Contribute to the development, review and delivery of teaching provision for postgraduate students, particularly in relation to Master-level degrees.
2. Develop and use innovative teaching methods to encourage student participation and to promote self-development and learning in students.
3. Act as a coach and role-model through excellent practice and mentoring colleagues.
4. Ensure the sustained publication of high quality research through leading publications, books and national/international conferences.
5. Participate in all aspects of teaching and assessment as agreed by the Centre Director of JCRC and Head of School, including such duties as lecturing, and supervision of undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Research:

1. Provide strategic vision and academic leadership in the development of an internationally recognised programme of Cancer Immunology with a primary focus on colorectal cancer.
2. Conduct research in collaboration with other University Institutes, Centres, Governmental/Policy units, practice communities, and voluntary sector organisations.
3. Establish suitable model systems for studying the impact of the tumour immune microenvironment on response and resistance to standard-of-care and investigational agents (including immunotherapies and cellular therapies).
4. Plan and lead research/scholarly activities of outstanding quality and national/all-island/international repute in Cancer Immunology.
5. Develop a translational programme leading to clinical trials.
6. Oversee staff teams and resource management processes necessary to deliver research plans.
7. Lead major funding bids which develop and sustain research support for specialist areas and advance the reputation of the University.
8. Lead the process of acquiring, analysing and interpreting research data, ensuring appropriate techniques, approaches, models and methods are employed.
9. Publish key results in peer-reviewed academic journals which further develop reputation in the subject area.
10. Sustain high quality research-related/scholarly contributions through conference papers and presentations.

11. Provide expert advice to colleagues, students, and externally e.g. government bodies and cancer charities.
12. Extend research work in the area of Cancer Immunology, establishing and fostering international links and forging strategic alliances with leading researchers in the field.
13. Supervise students in MPhil, MSc, and PhD programmes; and supervise and manage research staff.
14. Enhance interdisciplinary research within JCRC and the wider School of Medicine Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences (SMDBS) and FMHLS.

Administration/Contribution to the Community:

1. May take responsibility for the appointment, development and management of staff of all types in the directly managed team.
2. Contribute to the running and strategic direction of the University through membership of designated committees and/or project activities.
3. Sit on the Boards of national and international science and policy organisations; act as an advisor to government and in other external expert roles.
4. Manage responses to government consultations and policy, where appropriate, and act as one of the lead University spokespersons on Cancer Immunology.
5. Design and deliver new community outreach programmes/initiatives so that the University's overall contribution to the educational, economic, cultural and social life within Northern Ireland and beyond is enhanced.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Relevant Honours Degree.
2. PhD or equivalent in a relevant discipline.
3. Sustained record of publications at an international level of excellence in high quality, internationally recognised journals in the area of Cancer Immunology.
4. Sustained record of playing a leading role in successful bids for competitive, peer-reviewed national or international grants or other awards with significant external peer reviewed research funding as a Principal Investigator over a sustained period.
5. Research profile that complements the research priorities within the Johnston Cancer Research Centre.
6. Successful, sustained postgraduate student supervision as primary supervisor at PhD level.
7. Strong research collaborations and experience in leading or making significant contribution to interdisciplinary teams.
8. Experience of leading or significant involvement in national and/or international research programmes.
9. Recognised international expert in subject field as evidenced by, for example, a sustained record of invited talks at international conferences/ events and UK and/ or international Higher Education Institutions or a track record of invited keynote or plenary lectures at conferences of national and international significance.
10. Experience of teaching students and in the supervision of students at postgraduate level.
11. Experience of management in the research context and administration pertinent to teaching and research in a University setting.
12. Contribution to administrative tasks at a strategic level.
13. Experience of mentoring/training/management of colleagues.
14. Ability to develop, manage and effectively execute original lines of research.
15. Strong leadership skills with the ability to set strategic direction, influence policy and strategy, motivate colleagues and deliver change.
16. Demonstrable ability to participate in multi-disciplinary research in a collaborative setting.
17. A clear communicator, written and oral.
18. Able to provide effective teaching to undergraduate and postgraduate students.
19. Able to present research and other plans and reports to the wider academic community and non-academic audiences.
20. Must have a clear commitment to interdisciplinary working.
21. Must be a team player who can develop effective internal and external research.
22. Must be a dynamic, enthusiastic individual who wishes to avail of an opportunity to build an interdisciplinary research programme of international standing and is able to demonstrate a commitment to the realisation of the University's strategic research objectives (<https://www.qub.ac.uk/about/strategy/>).
23. Ability to provide strategic research leadership and act as a role model for young scientists and educators.
24. Must be prepared to travel.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. PGCHET and/or membership of an appropriate professional and/or teaching body e.g. HEA.
2. Track record in colorectal cancer research.
3. Experience in the area of cell therapies.

4. Have obtained significant Research Council, charity, industrial and/or international funding.
5. Editor/editorial board membership of academic or clinical journals.
6. Successful entrepreneurial activity.
7. Organisation of national and international conferences.
8. Evidence of course coordination and development and enhancement of curricula and assessment methods.
9. Introduction/deployment of innovative teaching methodologies.
10. Contribution to and development of community outreach programmes/initiatives.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Informal enquiries may be directed to: Emma Kerr at emma.kerr@qub.ac.uk.