

Job Profile

Job Description

Job Details		
Job Title:	QMUL18637 - Postdoctoral Research Assistant	
School/Dept/Institute & Centre:	Centre for Genomics & Child Health, Blizard Institute, Barts & The London School of Medicine & Dentistry	
Reports to:	Dr Pradeepa Madapura	
Grade:	Grade 4, Spinal point 27	Full Time
Appointment period:	26 months	
Current Location:	Whitechapel	

Job Context

The School of Medicine and Dentistry (SMD) is a significant constituent of Queen Mary University of London. It is organised into 6 separate Institutes, of which the Blizard Institute is the largest, with personnel of 550, financial turnover of £60 million per annum; and research expenditure of over £20 million per annum.

The Institute is organised into 6 separate Centres, which though complementary and following the Institute strategic plan, also have Centre-specific objectives and requirements.

In addition to the usual academic staff of a university, the Institute also employs a significant number of clinical academic staff who are intrinsic to the delivery of clinical practice, primarily within Barts Health NHS Trust, but also in other NHS Trusts (eg Homerton). This clinical dimension adds a significant degree of complexity, bringing with it, for example, a requirement to understand NHS workings, clinical career and training paths and GMC/medical Royal Colleges/DoH regulations and requirements in the employment and training of clinical staff.

Job Purpose

- To conduct high quality research using appropriate experimental technologies aimed at investigating genome-wide transcriptional enhancer activity in the neuronal cell lines.
- To analyse functional genomics experiments from human cell line models to generate high quality data suitable for publication in the peer review literature and presentation at international conferences.
- To develop new research projects based on current research undertaken in the lab and to continue development of existing research projects.
- To work as part of the collaborative research team, being mutually supportive and covering duties as necessary during colleagues' absences and at times of additional pressure.

Main Duties & Responsibilities

1. Contribute to the research programme on the role of transcriptional enhancers in human neuronal differentiation system and in neurodevelopmental disorders.
2. Collaborate and work closely with colleagues within the group to improve our understanding of epigenetic modifiers and transcriptional enhancers harbouring human genetic variants using human pluripotent-derived neuronal cells, neuroblastoma cells and molecular tools as necessary.
3. Conduct hands-on experimental laboratory work together with computational analysis of data (in liaison with collaborators).
4. Prepare reports of research results for public presentation at seminars and conferences.
5. Contribute to publications on research findings in peer-reviewed journals of high international standing.
6. Maintain appropriate databases, keeping accurate written and computerised records and ensure that these records are stored in a secure place and to maintain confidentiality of all electronically stored personal data in line with the provisions of the Data Protection Act.
7. Undertake literature and database searches for the research project, and interpret and present the findings of the literature searches as required by the line manager.
8. Keep up to date with subject-related new developments.
9. Participate in the Centre's academic activities, e.g. weekly seminars, research group meetings and journal club meetings.
10. Participate in public engagement activities in the lab and occasionally off-site.
11. Comply with relevant College policies and regulations with due regard to financial matters, harassment, equal opportunities, public interest disclosure, health and safety, intellectual property and patenting, data protection or any other rules, regulations or codes binding on the member of staff.
12. Participate in the College Appraisal Scheme (QMPAS) and demonstrate a commitment to continuing professional development.
13. Show a professional attitude to matters of laboratory hygiene, organisation and safety, and observe and take an active role in fulfilling all statutory health and safety regulations.
14. Ensure that all research is undertaken according to good research practice and guidance such as Good Clinical Practice (GCP)/ Good Laboratory Practice (GLP)/ College and Trust protocols.
15. Undertake other similar duties related to the research programme as may be reasonably expected by the line manager.
16. The duties of the post outlined above are not exhaustive, and the postholder will be expected to be co-operative and flexible, undertaking such administrative and other duties as may from time to time be reasonably expected of a member of research grade staff in a university.
17. These duties will be subject to review in line with the changing requirements of the School or College, and with the development needs of the postholder as identified through regular review/appraisal processes.

Main Duties & Responsibilities

The above list of responsibilities is not exhaustive and the jobholder may be required to undertake other duties commensurate with the level of the role, as reasonably requested by their line manager.

This job description sets out the duties of the post at the time it was drawn up. Such duties may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the duties or level of the responsibility entailed. Such variations are a common occurrence and cannot in themselves justify a reconsideration of the grading of the post.

This table lists the essential and desirable requirements needed in order to perform the job effectively. Candidates will be shortlisted based on the extent to which they meet these requirements.

	Requirements	Essential / Desirable	How Assessed
Qualifications	Undergraduate degree in relevant bioscience field (minimum upper second class honours degree)	E	
	PhD in a relevant field (e.g. molecular biology, genetics, biochemistry, biotechnology)	E	
Knowledge, Skills and Experience	Understanding, technical expertise, and statistical analysis skills in cell and molecular biology	E	
	Communication and presentation skills	E	
	Able to write well, as evidenced by relevant first-author publication(s)	E	
	Experience in bioinformatics or willingness to learn high throughput sequencing data analysis	D	
	Gene regulation knowledge and expertise	D	
	Computational analysis skills (shell, Perl/python, R/Bioconductor)	D	
	Cell culture, molecular biology	D	
Attitude and disposition	Friendly and positive disposition	E	
	Excellent interpersonal skills, able to interact with a diverse range of people from multi-disciplinary backgrounds	E	
	Self-motivated and hard-working, able to exercise initiative and be innovative	E	
	Willing to work flexibly and to learn new skills	E	
	Willing to supervise students, visiting scientists and junior staff	E	
Other	Willing to travel to conferences and meetings in other countries	D	

Essential/Desirable:

E = Essential: Requirements without which the job could not be done.

D = Desirable: Requirements that would enable the candidate to perform the job well.

How Assessed:

Job Profile Person Specification

A = Application

I = Interview

OM = Other Means (e.g. presentation, test, etc.)