

Job pack



Message from the President and Principal

Thank you for your interest in this role and in Queen Mary University of London. Working at Queen Mary means being part of a unique, world-class global University with a long, proud and distinctive history.

Our founding institutions, the London Hospital Medical College, St Bartholomew's Medical College, Westfield College and Queen Mary College, were founded to provide hope and opportunity for the less privileged and otherwise under-represented.

Today, we remain true to the vision of our founders by continuing to improve lives locally, nationally and internationally through the seamless combination of our world-leading strengths in education and research.

The Queen Mary community – our staff, students and alumni – is the heart and soul of our University. We are proud to provide an inclusive and nurturing environment so that staff and students from all backgrounds can develop, flourish and achieve their full potential.

I look forward to welcoming you to our unique University and working with you to realise our ambitions.

Professor Colin Bailey, President and Principal

Our strategy 2030

In 2019, Queen Mary University of London launched a bold new Strategy with the vision to open the doors of opportunity. By 2030, we will be the most inclusive university of its kind, anywhere. We are doing this by building on our existing cultural diversity to create a truly inclusive environment, where students and staff flourish, reach their full potential and are proud to be part of the University. Continuing our long tradition of commitment to public good, we will generate new knowledge, challenge existing knowledge, and engage locally, nationally and internationally to create a better world.

We have five core values that will help us to reach this goal:

We are **inclusive**, supporting talented students and staff regardless of their background, and engaging with our local and global communities.

We are **proud** of the difference we can all make when we work collectively.

We are **ambitious**, fostering innovation and creativity, disrupting conventional thought, and responding with imagination to new opportunities.

We are **collegial**, promoting a strong community through openness, listening, understanding, co-operation and co-creation.

We are **ethical**, acting with the highest standards, and with integrity, in all that we do.

To enable our staff to flourish and to reach their full potential throughout their employment at Queen Mary, we offer a range of benefits:

Staff benefits

- Annual leave – the full-time annual leave annual entitlement is 30 working days (not including bank holidays).
- [Season ticket loan scheme](#)
- [Pension scheme](#)
- [Reward and recognition schemes](#)
- [Cycle to work scheme](#)
- [Qmotion sport fitness centre](#)
- [Employee Assistance Programme](#)
- [Family friendly policies](#)
- [Flexible working practices](#)
- [On-site day nursery](#)

Job description

Job details	
Job title	Postdoctoral Research Assistant
School/Dept/Institute Centre/Faculty	Centre for the Tumour Microenvironment, Barts Cancer Institute
Reports to	Principal Investigator
Grade and salary	Grade 4, £34,220 - £36,098
Hours per week	Full-time
Appointment period	1 year
Current location	Charterhouse Square
Work activity type	Research only

Job context

The Barts Cancer Institute (BCI) is a Cancer Research UK Centre of Excellence whose work aims to transform the lives of those with and at risk of cancer through innovative research in the laboratory, in patients and in populations. BCI is internationally renowned in many areas of cancer research and it combines ground-breaking basic research with the expertise of clinicians and clinician scientists from the Centre for Experimental Cancer Medicine and the Barts NHS Trust to achieve improvements in cancer patient care. BCI is also a partner in the CRUK City of London Major Centre (together with UCL, Kings and the Francis Crick Institute) which is a Centre of Excellence in Biotherapeutics. BCI is committed in supporting and developing future cancer researchers through its extensive postgraduate training. It is one of six institutes within The School of Medicine and Dentistry (SMD).

Job purpose

- To undertake research investigations in collaboration with and under the supervision of the Principal Investigator (PI) in order to realise the objectives and development of the research programme.
- To contribute to the overall scientific endeavour of the Centre, and possibly to take responsibility for areas of other projects, as demand requires.
- To work as part of the Institute's research team, being mutually supportive and covering duties as necessary during colleagues' absences and at times of additional pressure, as directed.

Main duties and responsibilities

Research:

Our research interests lie in understanding the effect of the tumour microenvironment in mediating resistance to anti-cancer therapies in breast cancer. We are keen to understand better the basic mechanisms by which tumour-elicited extracellular vesicles communicate with normal cells in premetastatic niches to mediate resistance to chemotherapy and immunotherapy. Our work is focused on applying our findings to new ways to treat cancer better and uses a combination of state-of-the-art in vivo and in vitro approaches and omics analysis.

Specific Duties:

- The principal duty of the post will be to undertake laboratory research, developing the assigned project (see above), in a timely and resource efficient manner, as appropriate for the research area.
- To work towards a publication record of the kind that will enhance the Centre's research reputation at national and international level and that will clearly demonstrate originality and scholarship.
- To attend and participate in Centre's academic activities, e.g. Laboratory and journal club meetings, research group meetings and weekly seminars.
- To make research initiatives an original contributions to the research programme wherever possible and to contribute freely to the team research environment in a manner conducive to the success of the research project as a whole.
- To assist with experimental procedures in animals, where necessary.

General Duties:

- To design and execute experiments.
- To collect and analyse data.
- To maintain appropriate databases, keeping accurate written and computerised records and to 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.
- To prepare reports and scientific publications to disseminate results from the programme of research.
- To keep up to date with specific, clinical and professional issues, in particular developments in the specific subject area.
- To undertake literature searches to explore potential research projects and to be able to interpret and present the findings of the literature searches and advise the research teams appropriately regarding potential projects.
- To supervise and train where necessary new members of the research team.
- To assist in drafting budgets and applications for potential research projects and grants.
- Undertake such other duties as may be reasonably expected by the line manager or Head of Department.

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 accurately reflects the duties and responsibilities of the role at the time the job description was written. These duties and responsibilities may change over time without significantly impacting on the character of the role, the overall level of responsibility, or its grade.

Depending on strategic or operational needs, the jobholder may in the future be required to work for another existing or new organisational unit and/or at a different site within Queen Mary. This may be on a temporary or indefinite basis and may involve a change in line management and / or regularly working at more than one site.

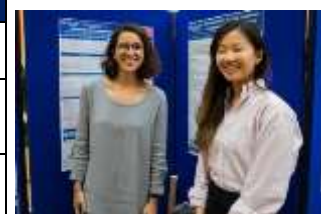
Person specification

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.

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

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

Qualifications	Essential	Desirable
PhD in a relevant biological subject	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Undergraduate degree in a biological subject	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Experience/Knowledge		
Significant research laboratory experience in in vivo mouse cancer models and investigations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At least one first-author publication in a peer-reviewed journal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Strong background in molecular and cellular biology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Experience with flow cytometry, tissue culture and basic molecular biology techniques	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Basic bioinformatics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Good understanding of the research process and ability to maintain accurate and up to date records	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Skills/Abilities		
Ability to organise and prioritise own work and organise research within the project timetable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ability to interpret the scientific literature and incorporate this into the project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Computer literacy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective team working	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Good communication skills	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Good analytical skills	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other		
Flexible and co-operative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Self-motivated and hardworking	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Willingness to learn new skills	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Willingness to work flexibly in order to achieve project demands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
*The ability to meet UK 'right to work' requirements.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



* The University has a legal responsibility to ensure that all potential employees can provide documentary evidence of their legal right to work in the UK prior to commencing employment. Candidates shortlisted for interview will be asked to bring their passport or another acceptable [form of evidence](#) to verify their right to work.

For those who do not have a right to work in the UK, the University is a UKVI licensed sponsor and is able to issue a Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS) to successful candidates who are offered highly skilled roles and meet the eligibility criteria. The CoS enables candidates to apply for a Tier 2 (general visa). For further information on this, please visit the UK Visas and Immigration website: <https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/work-visas>



Equal Opportunities

Queen Mary University of London is a Russell Group University with a difference. Our vision is to be recognised across the world as the most inclusive research-intensive University. We will strive to achieve that goal.

To all the communities at Queen Mary, inclusivity is key to who we are and to achieving all our ambitions.

We are a multi-faculty institution teaching undergraduates and postgraduates across all the major disciplines. We offer more than 280 undergraduate courses. We have world-leading research across disciplines and were ranked 5th in the UK in the last Research Excellence Framework (REF) for the quality of our research outputs, and continually challenge ourselves to ensure we have an environment where everyone feels included and can flourish.

We are very proud of our teaching and learning and were awarded a 'silver' in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) (2016-17). We are also deeply embedded in the local community and were the first UK University to be awarded an Engage Watermark Gold award for public engagement by the National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement.

Unlike many other Russell Group universities, we attract a very diverse student population. Of our 25,000+ students, over 30 per cent are from non-EU overseas countries, and 9 per cent are from the EU. Our international students are drawn from over 160 countries. 90 per cent of our home students are from state schools, 59 per cent are Black Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME), 42 per cent are the first in their families to go into higher education and over 30 per cent are from households where the household income, as assessed by Student Finance England, is less than £15,000.

We attract a lot of local students, owing to our strong relationships with schools in the surrounding boroughs, coupled with a strong reputation for inclusivity. 37 per cent of our students commute to our campuses daily. Our staff body is also diverse and is drawn from over 162 countries.

Inclusivity is one of our fundamental core values at Queen Mary: it is intrinsic to who we are. Our diversity of cultures and backgrounds is key to the vibrancy of our community and to the knowledge and ideas we are able to generate and pass on; without that diversity, we would not be who we are. We are extremely proud that we attract such a diverse staff and student body, and are fully committed to providing an environment where everyone is supported to flourish and fulfil their potential, irrespective of their background.

To be truly inclusive requires sustained, proactive, hard work, and we know there are areas where we have work to do. Our core objectives are focused on reducing the BAME attainment gap and increasing the proportion of female and BAME staff at the higher grades, both for academics and for Professional Services. We are looking to see how we can 'hard-wire' inclusivity throughout all our policies and practices: we do not see this work as belonging to one team or unit, but rather as being embedded in all that we do.

Being inclusive makes us better at everything we do, it improves our daily lives and the delivery and impact of our work.

EDI Initiatives

Queen Mary is committed to advancing Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and champions a number of EDI initiatives across the University. Queen Mary holds a Silver Institutional [Athena SWAN](#) award for advancing gender equality, and is also a [Stonewall Diversity Champion](#) and commits to advancing LGBTQ+ inclusion by submitting to the [Stonewall Workplace Equality Index](#). We also offer a number of development programmes including [Springboard](#), [Aurora](#) and [B-MEntor](#). We are committed to championing EDI relating to all protected characteristics and other underrepresented and marginalised groups under the Equality Act 2010. We offer 'Introducing Inclusion' training for staff to give them an understanding of EDI related issues and provide them with the tools needed to champion inclusivity and embed best inclusive practice in all the work they do. EDI is built into everything we do at Queen Mary, and is championed through a well-established governance structure. If you are interested in learning more about Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at Queen Mary and how to get involved then please contact hr-equality@qmul.ac.uk.

Flexible working:

Queen Mary is proud of the diversity of its staff and students. We encourage inclusive practices in everything that we do, to ensure that everyone who works here feels valued and enabled to have a positive working experience. We are therefore open to considering applications from candidates wishing to work flexibly, balanced against business need. Our [Flexible Working Policy](#) includes examples of some of the flexible working arrangements that could be considered. If you feel that this is something that may be of benefit to you, please do ask.

Family Friendly Policies:

Queen Mary recognises the commitments that staff have to their family and the importance of work-life balance. To support this Queen Mary offers a range of [family friendly policies](#) with enhanced rates of pay available for family-related leave, following a qualifying period of service.



Further Information

Details about the school can be found at:

www.qmul.ac.uk/bci/

Informal enquiries should be made to:

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Tel: +44(0)20 7882 3537

Email: i.keklikoglou@qmul.ac.uk

General Information

Please note that we advertise our salaries on a range to indicate the trajectory of progression that can be made. Appointments are usually made at the start of the salary range. The Queen Mary salary structure includes automatic pay progression within the published grades, subject to service, funding and performance. In addition to this, there are performance related annual pay review schemes in place

