# Job Description

Job Title: Research Assistant

Faculty/Professional Directorate: FHS

Subject Group/Team: HYMS/Centre for Biomedicine

Reporting to: Wound healing dept manager

Duration: 2 years

Job Family: Research

Pay Band: 6

Benchmark Profile: Research Band 6

DBS Disclosure requirement: No

Vacancy Reference:

**Details Specific to the Post**

# Background and Context

The University of Hull is world-leading in the area of wound healing research with projects centred around understanding the cellular and molecular aspects of chronic wound pathology. Specific areas of interest include exploring host-microbe interactions, elucidating the role of ageing and diabetes in skin health and disease, and working with industry to develop innovative new treatment modalities. The Hull York Medical School provides a research environment with an international reputation for wound research. We have recently received £16M capital investment funding to grow our research capacity and capabilities, engaging with key stakeholders, both locally and nationally. This position offers an exciting opportunity to undertake research in state-of-the-art facilities, developing models that have the potential to revolutionise translational studies in the area of wound biology.

We are seeking a talented Research Assistant to join a vibrant and active wound healing research group within the Centre for Biomedicine, Hull York Medical School. You will provide dedicated support for a 2-year externally funded project with the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of animals in research (NC3Rs). The vision of this project is to develop human wound microbiota and infection models that can suitably replace, and substantially improve upon, currently available rodent microbiota/infection models.

The wound group are proud to foster a collaborative and inclusive environment, promoting diversity and equality of opportunity in all aspects of our activities. The post-holder will be expected to contribute to this ethos of working positively with colleagues and partners. The post offers excellent career development opportunities including developing a range of research skills and presenting at external events.

# Specific Duties and Responsibilities of the post

The post-holder will be responsible for day-to-day management of the research project objectives. This will include working closely with, and providing guidance to, a dedicated Band 5 Research Technician. You should have demonstrable expertise in the techniques required for this project including microbiology, whole genome sequencing and working with human tissue. In addition, familiarity with bioinformatic pipelines for microbiome analysis would be highly advantageous. Full training and support will be provided for the required techniques. There will also be the opportunity for wider career development, including presenting data at external conferences.

# GENERIC JOB DESCRIPTION

The job duties and responsibilities listed below are intended to describe the general nature of the role. The duties and responsibilities and the balance between the elements in the role may change or vary over time depending on the specific needs at a specific point in time or due to changing needs in the department. Candidates should note that there may not be an immediate requirement to carry out all the activities listed below.

# Overall Purpose of the Role

This post may be suitable for those planning to train and develop their research skills so that they may take on a more senior research post in the future.

Research Staff at this level will assist an individual research leader or team to carry out a particular study or studies.

The research assistant will receive close supervision and direction from more senior colleagues and will receive academic, pastoral support and guidance which may include specific training, career counselling and mentoring.

The main focus of the work will involve the generation or collection of data using standard methods which have been developed by others. The role holder will assist with analysis and interpretation of results and the drafting of research reports and publications.

# Main Work Activities

1. Pro-actively contribute to the research project and conduct own research to include:
   * + Gather, prepare, analyse and interpret data
     + Conduct literature and database searches
     + Write up and present own research results

1. Contribute to the management of research projects to include:
   * + Contribute to the planning of projects
     + Plan own research activity within the framework of the agreed programme

1. Prepare reports and papers describing the results of the research for both internal and external publication to include:
   * + Contribute to the production of research reports and publications
     + Present information on research progress and outcomes to bodies supervising research

1. Work positively with colleagues in the research team and other collaborators and partners and support staff on routine matters both inside and outside the University
   * + Make internal and external contacts to develop knowledge and understanding and form relationships for future collaboration.
     + Actively participate as a member of the research team which will involve attending and contributing to relevant meetings.

1. Provide guidance as required to support staff and any project students who may be assisting with the research.

1. Demonstrate evidence of own personal and professional development including:  Appraisal, induction and performance reviews
   * Participation in training and development activity
   * Maintenance of links with professional institutions and other related bodies

**Additionally the post holder will be required to:**

* + Fulfil the employees’ duties described in the University’s health and safety policies and cooperate with the health and safety arrangements in place within the department. May be required to undertake specific health and safety roles on request e.g. Display screen equipment assessor, departmental safety officer, fire warden
  + Show a commitment to diversity, equal opportunities and anti-discriminatory practices This includes undertaking mandatory equality and diversity training
  + Comply with University regulations, policies and procedures

# PERSON SPECIFICATION – Research Band 6

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Specification** | **Essential** | **Desirable** | **Examples Measured by** |
| **Education and Training**    Formal qualifications and relevant training | * Working towards a PhD in relevant discipline * BSc or Masters degree in relevant discipline |  | Application  Interview  Other |
| **Work Experience**    Ability to undertake duties of the post | **Evidence of:**   * Data collection * Analysis and interpretation of results * Drafting research reports, participating in scientific conferences and contributing to drafting scientific publications * Relevant experience in wound microbiology & whole genome sequencing * Working with human tissue | * Expertise in bioinformatics pipelines * Experience in proteomics (e.g. LC-MS/MS) * Experience in host tissue analysis (histology, microscopy) | Application  Interview  Other |
| **Skills and Knowledge**    Includes abilities and intellect | **Evidence of :**   * Collaborative working and networking to enhance and develop research | * Detailed understanding of wound infection models | Application  Interview  Other |
| **Personal Qualities**    Includes any specific physical  requirements of the post – (subject to the provisions of the Equality Act 2010) | **Evidence of:**   * Working in an open and transparent way, providing information and communicating effectively with colleagues * Collaborative working, particularly on interdisciplinary activities * Continuous Professional Development. |  | Application  Interview  Other |

Research Band 6 (Generic)

Version 8

February 2014

Research Band 6 (Generic)

Version 8

February 2014