

Job Description

Post Title and Post Number	Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Organisation Advertising Description	School of Biosciences
Post Number	55184
Full Time/Part Time	Full Time
Duration of post	35 months
Post is open to:	Internal and External Candidates
Grade	7
Salary	Starting salary is normally in the range £28,695 to £37,394. With potential progression once in post to £39,685 a year.
Terms and Conditions	Research and Analogous
Closing Date	22nd June 2015

Job Summary

To create and contribute to the creation of knowledge by undertaking a specified range of activities within an established research programme and/or specific research project. This research-based position will investigate a role for N-terminal acetylation as a signal for protein degradation in plants, using genetic, molecular and proteomic approaches. The candidate will work together with a dedicated technical support person and PhD student(s) to functionally investigate a new mechanism for protein degradation in plants as part of a 3 year BBSRC-funded project.

Main Responsibilities

The responsibilities may include some but not all of the responsibilities outlined below:

Carry out research, including *Arabidopsis* molecular genetics, biochemistry, proteomics, physiology, confocal microscopy and computational analyses as required by grant objectives, under the overall supervision of Dr. Daniel Gibbs.

- Day to day responsibility for the conduct and satisfactory progress of the research
- Keep meticulous digital and hard copy experimental records using paper and online notebooks
- Keep current with the relevant literature
- Communicate with collaborators and attend meetings with them as required

- Contribute ideas and be involved with the longer term planning of the project in consultation with Dr. Gibbs
- Work safely and responsibly with regard to School rules
- Be prepared to share their expertise with more junior members of the laboratory e.g. research students.
- Contribute to group meetings.
- Develop research objectives and proposals for own or joint research, with assistance of a mentor if required
- Contribute to writing bids for research funding
- Analyse and interpret data
- Apply knowledge in a way which develops new intellectual understanding
- Disseminate research findings for publication, research seminars etc
- Supervise students on research related work and provide guidance to PhD students where appropriate to the discipline
- Contribute to knowledge transfer on own specialism that is of manifest benefit to the College and the University, often under supervision of a project leader
- Contribute to developing new models, techniques and methods
- Undertake management/administration arising from research
- Contribute to enterprise, business development and/or public engagement activities of manifest benefit to the College and the University, often under supervision of a project leader
- To manage the day-to-day research objectives of the associated technician who will be hired as part of the project, under the overall supervision of Dr. Daniel Gibbs
- Attend and participate in meetings by Skype and conference call with international collaborators
- Present research outputs, including drafting academic publications or parts thereof, for example at seminars and as posters
- Provide guidance, as required, to support staff and any students who may be assisting with the research
- Deal with problems that may affect the achievement of research objectives and deadlines

Scope of the Role

- Achieve the aims and goals of the grant, namely to functionally characterise enzymatic components and physiological targets of a novel protein degradation pathway in plants based on N-terminal acetylation.
- Analyse and interpret research findings and results
- Generate data for publication

Skills and Experience

- PhD in the area of plant biology Plant molecular genetics
- Protein biology experience essential (including western blotting and immunoprecipitation)
- Experience of proteomic techniques/analysis (e.g. mass spec) desirable
- Computer skills
- Plant cell biology
- Confocal microscopy experience desirable
- Ability to design, execute and write up experimental work independently and to troubleshoot failed experiments
- Ability to work effectively as part of a team or independently as required
- Willingness to learn new experimental/intellectual techniques
- Motivation and commitment

- Good time management skills, ability to prioritise and meet deadlines
- Able to communicate effectively with supervisors and collaborators
- An understanding of the issues of confidentiality and to conduct themselves in a manner that protects any confidential information in their possession

Planning and Organising

- Contribute to the planning and organising of the research programme and that of the associated technical post
- Co-ordinate own work with others to avoid conflict or duplication of effort

Decision Making

- Decide in consultation with the principal investigator as appropriate, on the most appropriate way of undertaking the specified research activities
- Decide in consultation with the principal investigator as appropriate how to analyse and interpret the data from the specified research activities
- Decide in consultation with the principal investigator as appropriate what knowledge to draw on and how to apply it to develop new intellectual understanding
- Decide in collaboration with co-authors which aspects of the research findings to include in a presentation or a publication and how to convey the findings
- Give guidance, support and advice to students on research related work including PhD students and decide the most appropriate method of providing this supervision.

Internal/External Relationships

- Liaise with research staff and support staff on research-related matters
- Liaise with external collaborators on the research, where appropriate
- Give presentations and/or contribute to presentations at national and/or international conferences
- Referee articles for peer-reviewed academic journals
- Maintain contact with (including membership of) appropriate professional bodies
- Liaise with the relevant external research community via seminars and conferences
- External clients of the University or members of the public.