University of Liverpool

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH FELLOW

Job Ref: 011366

Faculty: Health and Life Sciences, Dept of Evolution, Ecology and Behaviour, Institute of Integrative Biology

Location: Biosciences Building

Grade: 8

Salary: £40,792

Hours of Work: Full-time

Tenure: 35 months

Shortlisting and interview arrangements are the responsibility of the recruiting Department. Please contact Carole Thomas on 0151 795 4402 email: markvineydeeb@liverpool.ac.uk for all enquiries.
Affordable
Based in the 2nd most affordable UK city.

More galleries and museums than any UK city outside of London.

33,000
33,000 students, 7,500 of whom travel from all over the world to study here.

Birthplace of The Beatles and home to two Premier League Football clubs.
We are seeking to appoint an Independent Research Fellow with research interests that align with those of the Department of Evolution, Ecology and Behaviour, part of the Institute of Integrative Biology. Notable research strengths of the department include: mammalian behavioural biology; evolutionary and population genomics; evolutionary ecology, particularly including the responses of ecosystems to environmental perturbation; the evolution and ecology of host-symbiont and host-parasite interactions in health and disease.

During this fixed-term position you will develop an independent research programme, as well as seek further independent funding. You will be supported in building your research programme and developing your career by the Institute, which provides an environment that fosters and supports the development of future research leaders.

You will have full access to communal facilities in the Institute and some start-up funds. Although this is a research position, you will have the option to contribute to some undergraduate teaching.

You should have a PhD in a relevant discipline, have a strong research portfolio that shows evidence of research independence, and high quality publications, appropriate to your career stage.

Your application should include your CV and a statement of your planned research programme for the next 3 years, including potential opportunities to secure external funding; the statement of your proposed research programme should not exceed 1000 words.

The Institute of Integrative Biology (IIB) is one of five research-intensive Institutes within the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences located at the heart of a thriving biomedical and environmental science campus. Our academic staff contribute to biological, biomedical and veterinary science undergraduate curriculums through close links with the Faculty’s undergraduate teaching institutes (Institute of Life and Human Sciences; Institute of Clinical Sciences; Institute of Veterinary Science). Our engagement across a range of scientific areas supports the delivery of research-driven teaching to our undergraduate and postgraduate communities.

We have 68 academic colleagues in the Institute, including 31 Professors, 9 independent research fellows, ~100 staff on permanent and fixed-term research contracts, ~100 postgraduate students and 28 technical staff. We are administered by 18 professional services staff providing management, financial, research and clerical support. With a research income of ~£9.2m annually, our scientists deliver ground-breaking research which spans the complete range of biological scales from genes and genetic regulation through proteins, whole organisms, populations and ecosystems. We benefit from state-of-the-art facilities in genomics, proteomics, metabolomics and computational biology and expertise in applying these techniques to meet societal challenges in healthcare, bioscience, agriculture and environmental science.

The Institute is organised into three Departments (led by Heads of Department) with four cross-cutting research themes. Particular emphasis is placed on breaking down disciplinary barriers and on encouraging the development of thematic networks of active research groups, both within IIB, but also extending externally into environmental science, chemistry, mathematics and veterinary and clinical medicine.
Vision

Over the next five years we aim to:

- Ensure that our research will have a positive impact on society.
- Continue to grow our discovery science and translational research by working more closely with industry, the public sector and other higher education partners.
- Continue to support and grow our postgraduate community, developing the next generation of research scientists.

Facilities

The research activities of the Institute are housed mainly within the Biosciences Building, which comprises core laboratories for cell imaging, genomics, proteomics, insect, plant and microbial culture, an aquarium and NMR spectroscopy. Some of these laboratories also provide Shared Research Facilities for the Faculty, supported by the University’s Technology Directorate. Together, this provides a large-scale, interactive research environment for life and health sciences.

Our core research facilities include:

- The Centre for Genomic Research acting as collaborative core UK sequencing facility for the wider scientific community, with expertise in high-throughput cell isolation to single cell level, sequencing platforms (2nd and 3rd generation) and informatics infrastructure for genome analyses.
- GeneMill Synthetic Biology Lab for gene editing and synthesis.
- Centre for Proteome Research housing state-of-the-art instrumentation for qualitative and quantitative proteomics, MS imaging and MS-based structural protein analysis.
- Centre for Cell Imaging housing both confocal and wide-field luminescence microscopes
- Computational Biology Facility promoting the interaction and coordination of the community of computational and experimental biologists in Liverpool.
- Barkla X-ray Laboratory of Biophysics with in-house X-ray crystallography and SAXS capability.
- NMR Centre for Structural Biology and Metabolomics for structural and metabolite analysis in liquid and solid state

Other facilities include:

- Henry Wellcome Laboratory of Mammalian Behaviour and Evolution, based at the Leahurst campus, with specialised indoor and outdoor facilities for wild and laboratory rodents.
- Extensive culture facilities including controlled temperature rooms, glasshouses, plant growth rooms, and a 450m² aquarium equipped for all biomes.
- A 48 pond (2000L) replicated mesocosm facility with individual temperature control and monitoring.
- Access to a state-of-the-art Biomedical Services Unit for work on laboratory rodents.
- Access to farm animals at the Leahurst Campus and to the University Botanic Gardens at Ness, both of which are on the nearby Wirral peninsula.
Excellent facilities/expertise exist elsewhere on the campus, these include MRI scanners, electron, atomic-force and photoelectron microscopy, nanobiotechnology and materials discovery. Maintaining the leading-edge status of these key facilities is the role of the Technology Directorate, which coordinates internal and external investment on behalf of the Faculty, with cost-recovery mechanisms to encourage sustainability.

**Diversity and Equality**

We are very proud to hold Athena SWAN Gold status in recognition of our activities and policies promoting gender equality and inclusivity of all our staff and students. This is Liverpool’s first Gold award and one of eleven nationally, placing us in the 1.7% of university departments holding such an award (see Advance HE website). We are committed to supporting our staff and students in reaching their full potential, providing a fair and supportive environment and organisational structure. Further details are available on our Athena SWAN web page.
# PERSON SPECIFICATION

## Essential Criteria  |  Desirable Criteria
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(Identified from – Application form, CV, Supporting Statement, Interview, References)

## Experience

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<td><strong>1.1</strong></td>
<td>Experience as a successful researcher</td>
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<td><strong>1.2</strong></td>
<td>Evidence of high impact publications</td>
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<td><strong>1.3</strong></td>
<td>Evidence of research independence</td>
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## Education, Qualifications and Training

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<td><strong>2.1</strong></td>
<td>PhD in relevant discipline</td>
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<td><strong>2.2</strong></td>
<td>Postdoctoral training in relevant area</td>
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## Skills, General and Special Knowledge

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<td><strong>3.1</strong></td>
<td>Excellent technical research skills in a relevant discipline</td>
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<td><strong>3.2</strong></td>
<td>Excellent written and presentation skills</td>
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<td><strong>3.3</strong></td>
<td>Evidence of scientific leadership at a local level</td>
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## Personal Attributes and Circumstances

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<td><strong>4.1</strong></td>
<td>Evidence of ability to collaborate with other research groups whilst pursuing independent research interests</td>
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<td>Integrity and commitment to diversity</td>
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<td><strong>4.3</strong></td>
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To apply for a Vacancy at the University you must register on the University of Liverpool E-Recruitment site, https://recruit.liverpool.ac.uk

If you have any queries relating to applying for a Vacancy please contact the Recruitment team by email – Jobs@liverpool.ac.uk

Acknowledging your application

Once you have submitted your application you will receive an automatic acknowledgement. Your application can be viewed at any time in the Application History section of your E-Recruitment Account.

Outcome of applications

Vacancies at the University often attract a large number of candidates and it is not always possible to respond individually to every application. If you have not heard from the recruiting department within 6 weeks after the closing date please take it that your application has not been successful.
Asylum & Immigration
The University will comply with the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006, which requires all employees to provide documentary evidence of their legal right to work in this country prior to commencing employment. Please be aware that you will be required to bring your passport (and visa if applicable) to interview so that it can be copied and verified by a member of the Selection Panel. For posts requiring a recognised degree level or equivalent qualification, and where there is no suitable UK or European Economic Area candidate, the University will take the necessary steps to secure UK Border Agency permission for a foreign national to take up employment.

Should a candidate require a Certificate of Sponsorship in order to take up a post they will need to meet the UK Border Agency Tier 2 Points Based Criteria. A self assessment tool can be found on the UK Border Agency website at: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/pointscalculator

A candidate may also be required to undertake an English Language test prior to commencing work at the University. Details of Home Office approved tests can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-applying-for-uk-visa-approved-english-language-tests. Further information on the eligibility criteria for Certificates of Sponsorship can be found at: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/employers/points

National Insurance Number
All employed individuals must possess a UK National Insurance Number. Further information and how to apply for a unique National Insurance Number can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/apply-national-insurance-number

Diversity and Equality
The University of Liverpool is committed to diversity and equality of opportunity. All employees and applicants for jobs will be considered on their abilities and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of age, caring responsibilities, colour, disability, employment status, gender, gender identity, marital status, nationality, race or ethnic origin, religion or belief, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or any other irrelevant distinction. Training is available to support career progression within the University.

Two Ticks Disability: Guaranteed Interview Scheme (GIS)
The University of Liverpool is committed to the employment of disabled people, and as part of our commitment, we guarantee to interview all disabled applicants who meet the essential criteria for a post and consider them on their abilities. If your disability prevents you completing the application form by the specified closing date, or when the vacancy closes early, due to a high volume of applications, please call the Recruitment Team to discuss alternative arrangements. http://www.liv.ac.uk/working/jobvacancies/guaranteedinterviewscheme/

Micah Liverpool Programme
The University of Liverpool supports the Liverpool Anglican Cathedral Micah Liverpool Programme. Applicants who have successfully completed the programme and meet the essential criteria for the post will be offered a guaranteed interview. Please note that individuals will be confirmed through the Micah Liverpool Programme directly. http://www.liverpoolcathedral.org.uk/home/micah-liverpool.aspx

GiveGetGo Volunteer Programme
Applicants who have successfully completed the GiveGetGo Volunteer Programme at the University in Partnership with the Transform Lives Company who meet the essential criteria for the post will be offered a guaranteed interview. Please note that individuals will be confirmed through the GiveGetGo Volunteer Programme directly. https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/working/jobvacancies/givegetgo/

Accessibility
If you require copies of documentation in alternative formats, for example, large print or Braille, please contact jobs@liverpool.ac.uk or telephone 0151 794 6771.
If you have any other requirements which will help you access the application or interview process or employment opportunities at the University of Liverpool, please let us know by contacting jobs@liverpool.ac.uk or telephone 0151 794 6771.

Pension
Information about The Occupational Pension Scheme associated with this appointment can be found here. You are encouraged to familiarise yourself with the full particulars of the scheme.