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| **Job Title:** | Research Fellow A |

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| **Responsible to:** | Head of research group, or principal investigator |

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| **Responsible for:** | Not applicable |

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| Job Summary and Purpose: |
| To undertake research in accordance with the specified research project(s) under the supervision of the principal investigator. |

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| Main Responsibilities/Activities |
| To undertake a range of research activities within a specified research area, assuming responsibility for specific areas of projects and making use of new research techniques and methods, in consultation with the research award holder or supervisor. This may include fieldwork, interviews, laboratory experimentation, critical evaluation and interpretation, computer-based data analysis and evaluation or library research.  Using initiative and creativity to identify areas for research develop new research methods and extend the research portfolio. Analysing and interpreting results of own research. Write up results and prepare papers for submission to appropriate journals and conferences, and other outputs as required and/or appropriate. Attend appropriate conferences for the purpose of disseminating research results of personal development. The post holder may also contribute to writing bids for research grants and will contribute to collaborative decision making with colleagues in areas of research.  Continually to update knowledge and develop skills, and translate knowledge of advances in the area into research activity.  To plan and manage own research activity in collaboration with others. To carry out administrative tasks associated with specified research funding, for example risk assessment of research activities, organisation of project meetings and documentation. Implementation of procedures required to ensure accurate and timely formal reporting and financial control.  To contribute to teaching in the Faculty by carrying out student supervision and/or demonstrating within the post holder’s area of expertise and under the direct guidance of a member of departmental academic staff, as appropriate.  The post holder may occasionally be required to supervise more junior research staff. |

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| **Person Specification** |
| The post holder must have:A doctoral degree in a relevant discipline (although individuals who have almost completed a doctoral degree may be appointed). Consideration may also be given to individuals who do not hold a doctoral degree but have required skills based on a number of years’ experience in specified / relevant fields The post holder will have authority over some aspects of project work and must be capable of providing academic judgement, offering original and creative thoughts and be able to interpret and analyse results. |

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| **Relationships and Contacts** |
| Direct responsibility to the principal investigator or academic supervisor. The post holder may be asked to serve on a relevant Faculty committee. There may be additional reporting and liaison responsibilities to external funding bodies or sponsors. The post holder may work on original research tasks with colleagues in other institutions. |

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| **Special Requirements** |
| To be available to participate in fieldwork as required by the specified research project |

### All staff are expected to:

* Positively support equality of opportunity and equity of treatment to colleagues and students in accordance with the University of Surrey Equal Opportunities policy.
* Help maintain a safe working environment by:
* Attending training in Health and Safety requirements as necessary, both on appointment and as changes in duties and techniques demand
* Following local codes of safe working practices and the University of Surrey Health and Safety Policy
* Undertake such other duties within the scope of the post as may be requested by your Manager.

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| **Addendum**  This document provides additional information relating to both specific aspects of the post/faculty and any post specific person specification criteria. The information contained within this document should always be read in conjunction with the accompanying generic Role Profile. | | |
| **Job Title:** | Postdoctoral Research Fellow in RNA Biology/ Therapeutics | |
| **Background Information/Relationships**  The project concerns the continuation and completion of a collaborative project with a leading European Biotech company (the funder). A confidential agreement is assigned to this project and funding has been extended for at least 13 months.  In this project, we investigate the role of the 3’UTRs in mRNAs in timing gene expression in human cells. Therefore, we have established and further developed an affinity-isolation techniques using modified antisense-oligonucleotides (ASO) to capture cell-transfected mRNAs (Matia-Gonzalez *et al.* 2017, 2021, Iadevaia *et al*. 2020; reviewed by Gerber et al. 2021). Currently, we are identifying proteins interacting with the transfected mRNAs with mass-spectrometry (MS). For this 2nd phase of the project, we aim to consolidate the findings and further characterise the role of particular RNA-binding proteins (RBPs) and/or microRNAs (miRNAs) interacting with the 3’UTRs under study. Hence, the postholder will implement a variety of RNA-protein interaction assays, perform siRNA-mediated knock-down RBPs and measure the impact in reporter gene expression with fluorescence-based reporter constructs. Finally, new UTRs will be designed for optimisation of the temporal and spatial expression of transfected mRNAs. At the end, the results of the study shall be published in a peer-reviewed journal. | | |
| **Person Specification**  This section describes the sum total of knowledge, experience & competence required by the post holder that is necessary for standard acceptable performance in carrying out this role. This is in addition to the criteria contained within the accompanying generic Role Profile. | | |
|  | | **Essential/ Desirable** |
| 1. A Doctoral Degree in molecular biology/ biochemistry/ cell-biology (or related field) | | Essential |
| 1. Proven working experience in biochemistry and molecular biology, preferentially in RNA biology | | Essential |
| 1. Experience with human cell-culture techniques and protocols | | Essential |
| 1. Experience with -omics approaches (RNA-seq/proteomics) | | Desirable |
| 1. Bioinformatics and programming skills | | Desirable |
| 1. Track record of publications in highly ranked journals and conferences | | Essential |
| 1. Written and verbal communication skills with an ability to write project deliverables and give presentations on the completed work | | Essential |

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| **Key Responsibilities**  This document is not designed to be a list of all tasks undertaken but an outline record of any faculty/post specific responsibilities (5 to 8 maximum). This should be read in conjunction with those contained within the accompanying generic Role Profile. |
| Plan and conduct research along the project outline in RNA biology/ post-transcriptional gene regulation and systems biology   1. Plan and conduct research along the project outline in RNA biology/ post-transcriptional gene regulation and systems biology 2. Liaise with the collaborative partner (biotech company) and regularly report on progress. 3. Possibility to assist in the supervising project/summer students (BSc, MSci) working on aspects of the project. 4. Present work at scientific meetings and publish work in peer-reviewed journals in line with the confidential agreement. 5. To continually update knowledge and develop skills, and translate knowledge of advances in the area into research activity.   **N.B. The above list is not exhaustive**. |