

Research Role Profile

Job Title:	Research Fellow (1A)
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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.

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.

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.

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 to Role Profile

Job Title:	Research Fellow (1A)
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Job Summary and Purpose:

This information sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying generic Research RA1A Role Profile and will be used for shortlisting processes. More specifically the post holder will be expected to:

Conduct research on a project funded by the Leverhulme Trust. The aim of the project is develop and improve biocoatings. Specific objectives are to (1) keep the bacteria hydrated and to avoid osmotic stress during the coating formation; (2) create porosity in the coatings to ensure the easy transport of gases in and out of them; (3) increase the adhesion between the cells and the coating to avoid the escape of the bacteria.

Main Responsibilities/Activities

The Research Fellow will work closely with a PhD student on the project. The student will be responsible for culturing the bacteria, genetically modifying the bacteria, and characterising the metabolic activity of the bacteria. The Research Fellow will use the bacteria in biocoatings with additives to increase the hydrophilicity, porosity, and cell adhesion. The Research Fellow will characterise the nanostructure and microstructure and hydrophilicity of the coatings and will evaluate their performance in a range of applications (bioreactors, sensors, etc.). The results of the research will be communicated in journal publications, conference presentations, and in demonstrations for the general public. The Research Fellow will be expected to show leadership in the laboratory and to offer general support to the PhD students.

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Person Specification

The post holder must have:

- A PhD in the physical sciences (physics, materials, chemistry, etc.), ideally with previous experience with biomaterials or bioengineering;
- Knowledge of soft matter science, especially colloids, concepts of colloidal stability, and non-equilibrium systems;
- Excellent communication skills with previous experience in writing journal articles for publication and making oral presentations;
- Strong practical laboratory skills, preferably with microscopy (optical, fluorescence, electron, scanning probe), thermal analysis, spectroscopy (*e.g.* IR or Raman), and characterisation of physical chemical properties, such as vapour sorption and porosity;
- An ability to work independently and to propose original research ideas;
- Willingness to collaborate in an interdisciplinary project, for which previous experience with soft matter for applications in biology or medicine would be helpful.

Relationships and Contacts

The Research Fellow will report to Prof. Joseph Keddie and work as part of a larger team including Dr. Hingley-Wilson (Department of Microbiology) and a PhD student.