

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENT
FACULTY OF SCIENCE & ENGINEERING
SCHOOL OF NATURAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
SUCCEED PROSPERITY PARTNERSHIP –RESEARCH ASSOCIATE
VACANCY REF: SAE-027802

Salary: Grade 6 £36,924 to £45,163 per annum, depending on relevant experience

Hours: Full time (1 FTE)

Duration: Fixed term for 42 months from February 2025

Location: Manchester Institute of Biotechnology

Enquiries about the vacancy, shortlisting and interviews:

Name: Professor David Leys

Email: David.Leys@manchester.ac.uk

Project Description

SuCCEED is a BBSRC funded Prosperity Partnership multi-million project between The University of Manchester and Shell. Commodity chemicals are produced on a global scale and normally derived from finite geological sources. The Shell-UoM partnership seeks to re-imagine bulk chemicals manufacturing through industrial biotechnology, producing renewable chemical products from sustainable feedstocks and providing alternative scalable bioproduction routes to contribute to the global efforts to reduce CO2 emissions.

<https://www.sites.se.manchester.ac.uk/succeed/>

We are looking for a research associate to join our interdisciplinary team, consisting of 8 Research Associates and 5 PhDs associated with 8 group leaders at UoM. You will be supported to combine your individual talents with the wider team's breadth of skills and will be based in the Manchester Institute of Biotechnology (MIB) at the University of Manchester which is a cross-disciplinary research Centre that brings together diverse expertise including: molecular biology; chemistry; biochemical-engineering; materials science; synthetic biology; analytics and computer science. You will be based in the laboratory of Prof. David Leys and work closely with Prof. Nigel Scrutton, Dr. Neil Dixon and Prof. Anthony Green, contributing to experimental research in the MIB based SuCCEED group.

We are committed to creating a fully inclusive and flexible culture, one where everyone can realise their potential and make a positive contribution to our organisation. We believe that if we can positively diversify our staff, we will be able to collaborate more effectively and create a more productive environment. If you think you will be a good fit for this role, we look forward to hearing from you!

Overall purpose of the Position

The SuCCEED research associate will perform laboratory-based R&D. More specifically, the Research Associate will work with Prof. David Leys to discover and develop robust enzyme biocatalysts for production of commodity chemicals. You will take part in collaborative and interdisciplinary work across the MIB groups, facilitate joined up research planning between the work packages and maximise efficient use of resources.

We seek applications from diverse candidates with a relevant background, and demonstrable research expertise that can be applied to biomanufacturing/enzyme engineering.

We are looking for enthusiastic researchers that can work with both the academic and industrial partners. In this role you will be encouraged to further develop your research and professional skills (e.g., towards an independent career in academia, or in industry). As a member of a large interdisciplinary research team, you will have interpersonal skills and a strong ethos for team-based working.

Key Responsibilities, Accountabilities or Duties

Principle Responsibilities

The range of duties will include:

- Conduct individual and collaborative research projects as defined by the academic leads
- Attend and contribute to relevant project meetings
- Be aware of University IP policy and IP/commercial potential of project outputs
- Work in collaboration with both academic and industry SuCCEED team members
- Contribute to SuCCEED PhD student training and supervision
- Build internal contacts and participate in internal networks for the exchange of information and to form relationships for future collaboration
- Help maintain and organise lab consumable stocks/biological stocks and samples
- Liaise with external companies and arrange purchasing of lab equipment and consumables
- Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism
- Deal with routine communication using a range of media
- Communicate complex information, orally, in writing and electronically as SuCCEED meetings
- Manage own research and administrative activities, with guidance if required
- Use new research techniques and methods

- Use initiative and creativity to identify areas for research, develop new research methods and extend the research portfolio
- Analyse and interpret research data and draw conclusions on the outcomes
- Contribute to collaborative decision making with colleagues in areas of research
- Use research resources, laboratories and workshops as appropriate
- Plan and manage own research activity in collaboration with others
- Managing competing pressures of research and administrative demands and deadlines
- Be aware of the risks in the work environment and their potential impact on their own work and that of others

Person Specification

Essential

- PhD (or equivalent) in a relevant science to biomanufacturing/enzyme engineering, such as biology/chemistry/biochemistry
- Experience in protein expression, purification and characterisation
- Have significant experience of laboratory-based research projects
- An ability to work independently and collaboratively as part of a team, and a flexible approach to dealing with research problems as they arise
- Excellent communication skills, with the ability to communicate complex information, orally, in writing and electronically
- Excellent time-management and organisational skills with the ability to manage multiple tasks and priorities
- Self-motivated and able to work independently

Desirable

Specialist knowledge and a demonstrable research expertise in any of the following would be advantageous:

- Bioinformatics
- Molecular Biology (cloning, mutagenesis)
- Enzyme assays/kinetics
- Biocatalysis/Biotransformation
- Directed evolution (library construction, high throughput screening)
- Biophysical characterisation of proteins
- Protein Structure determination (e.g. protein crystallisation/crystallography)

In-line with the University's terms and conditions, you will be expected to work such hours as are necessary for the proper discharge of your duties and responsibilities, with a notional minimum 35 hours per week through Monday to Friday. There may be occasions when some non-core

hours work could be required, however the University operates arrangements to recognise out of hours working and to ensure an appropriate balance between working and non-working time.

Applications are very welcome from candidates who wish to re-establish themselves in active research after a career break, or other period of absence due to circumstances such as maternity, paternity, long term illness, or caring responsibilities.

As an equal opportunity employer we expect and actively encourage applicants from all sections of the community regardless of age, sex, gender (or gender identity), ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation and transgender status. All appointments are made on merit.

We hope that by working with us you will be part of something where you feel included, valued and proud.

Working for the University of Manchester

The University of Manchester strives to make our community a welcoming, caring and enthusiastic one, fuelling ambition with opportunities and support to help us all achieve our personal and professional goals.

Our diverse job opportunities include an attractive <https://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/peopleand-od/benefit/> with family-friendly policies that provide for flexible working. We care deeply about career and personal development, offering a structured induction programme for new staff, an annual performance and development review, staff training for all career stages and mentoring opportunities to support your career development.

We have a genuine commitment to <http://www.manchester.ac.uk/connect/jobs/equality-diversity/awards/> for our staff and students, and are proud to employ a workforce that reflects the diverse community we serve.

As a global institution, situated at the heart of a lively, <http://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/experience/student-life/city/>, we welcome applicants of all nationalities. To help international job applicants plan for life in the UK, we have put together some useful <http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/employment/joining-theuniversity/international-staff/> travel to the UK, accommodation and a number of other practical considerations.

The University of Manchester (www.manchester.ac.uk) is one of the largest single-site universities in the UK, with one of the biggest student communities. In total, 25 Nobel Prize winners have worked or studied here and 83% of our research was ranked as 'world-leading' or 'internationally excellent' by the Research Excellence Framework. Furthermore, more than nine out of ten of our recent graduates go straight into employment or continued studies. The Faculty of Science and Engineering (FSE) comprises two multi-discipline Schools; the School of Engineering and the School of Natural Sciences, each led by a Head of School and Head of School Operations. The School of Engineering is made up of seven academic departments and the School of Natural Sciences is made up of five academic departments. For more information, please visit <https://www.se.manchester.ac.uk/>