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| Job title | Research Assistant/Fellow (Title will be Associate where an appointment is made before PhD is completed) | Job family and level | Research & Teaching Level 4 (Appointment will be Level 4 Career Training Grade where an appointment is made before PhD has been completed) |
| School/ Department | School of Pharmacy and School of Biosciences | Location | University Park Campus and Sutton Bonington Campus |

Purpose of role

The School of Pharmacy and Biosciences at the University of Nottingham are seeking a creative and motivated plant biologist/synthetic biologist to develop an advanced plastid engineering toolbox that would allow precise, high throughput chloroplast genome editing and construction with the potential to create fully synthetic plastid genomes. The role holder will be involved in the design, build and testing pivotal engineering biology tools, including a CRISPR-Cas9 based gene-drive system.

| | Main responsibilities (Primary accountabilities and responsibilities expected to fulfil the role) | % time per year |
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| 1 | To plan and conduct research, towards the BBSRC funded grant proposal. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Generate a SYCHLOPS toolbox essential for whole plastid genome engineering ▪ Tissue culture and plant nuclear transformations ▪ Plastid transformations using biolistics ▪ Crossing and testing plastid genome re-programming | 80 % |
| 2 | Outputs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contribute to internal meetings and work with the research team to achieve objectives. ▪ Plan and manage own research activity and resolve problems, if required, in meeting own/team research objectives and deadlines. ▪ Prepare research results for publication, read relevant literature and offer new insights to the research area. ▪ Contribute to dissemination at scientific meetings, resulting in successful outputs. | 10% |
| 3 | Research Team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with others in the research team to achieve objectives and make an active contribution to the success of the team. ▪ Assist in the supervision of undergraduate and postgraduate students as appropriate. | 5% |
| 4 | Laboratory upkeep <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contribute to organising research resources and facilities, laboratories and workshops as appropriate. ▪ Contribute to the upkeep and maintenance of key laboratory equipment, where appropriate. | 5% |

Person specification

| | Essential | Desirable |
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| Skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strong background and expertise in plant genetics and/or physiology and synthetic biology ▪ Evidence of sufficient breadth or depth of research methodologies and techniques to work in plant transformation, including biolistics ▪ Excellent oral and written communication skills, including the ability to communicate with clarity on complex information. ▪ Developing research skills, with the ability to creatively apply relevant research approaches, models, techniques and methods. ▪ Ability to contribute to method improvement. ▪ Analytical ability to facilitate conceptual thinking, innovation and creativity. ▪ Ability to work independently, build relationships and collaborate with others, internally and externally. ▪ Flexible, proactive and dedicated approach. ▪ High analytical ability to analyse and illuminate data, interpret reports, evaluate and criticise texts and bring new insights. ▪ Ability to develop and apply new concepts and methods. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ability to assess and organise resource requirements and deploy effectively. ▪ Ability to foster a research culture and commitment to learn in others. |
| Knowledge and experience | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Experience of plant transformation, preferably biolistics and chloroplast transformation. ▪ Research experience in the modification/exploitation of plant metabolic pathways. ▪ Past experience in plant transformation. ▪ Working in a similar research environment. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Knowledge of key concepts of biochemistry ▪ Track record in academic publication. ▪ Supervising or helping with the supervision of research students. ▪ Knowledge of advanced genome editing and/or metabolic pathway analysis. |
| Qualifications, certification and training (relevant to role) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PhD or equivalent (pending or awarded) in a discipline relevant to plant biology and/or plant biochemistry. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Master's degree in Plant biology, or related discipline. |



As part of this, we welcome a diverse population to join our work force and therefore encourage applicants from all communities, particularly those whose protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010, are not well-represented in our current staff body.



The University is a signatory of the Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA). As such we commit to focus on the scientific content of publications (where requested or provided as part of the recruitment and selection process) as a basis for review of quality, and consideration of value and impact of research conducted, rather than any proxy measures such as Journal Impact Factor.

Expectations and behaviours

The University has developed a clear set of core expectations and behaviours that our people should be demonstrating in their work, and as ambassadors of the University's strategy, vision and values. The following are essential to the role:

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| Valuing people | Is friendly, engaging and receptive, putting others at ease. Actively listens to others and goes out of way to ensure people feel valued, developed and supported. |
| Taking ownership | Is clear on what needs to be done encouraging others to take ownership. Takes action when required, being mindful of important aspects such as Health & Safety, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, and other considerations. |
| Forward thinking | Drives the development, sharing and implementation of new ideas and improvements to support strategic objectives. Engages others in the improvement process. |
| Professional pride | Is professional in approach and style, setting an example to others; strives to demonstrate excellence through development of self, others and effective working practices. |
| Always inclusive | Builds effective working relationships, recognising and including the contribution of others; promotes inclusion and inclusive practices within own work area. |

Key relationships with others

