

Candidate Information

Position:	Research Assistants - COVID Testing
School/Department:	School of Pharmacy
Reference:	21/108596
Closing Date:	Wednesday 3 February 2021
Salary:	£28,331 per annum.
Anticipated Interview Date:	Wednesday 17 February 2021.
Duration:	3 months with possibility of extension.

JOB PURPOSE:

As part of the UK Covid Mass Testing Programme, Queen's University are partnering with local NHS Trusts in Northern Ireland to deliver a testing service for asymptomatic NHS staff. Frontline staff will be able to obtain a saliva test using the OptiGene Direct Loop-Mediated Isothermal Amplification (LAMP) assay via their place of work.

We have a LAMP testing laboratory set up at the Medical Biology Centre which will process samples for healthcare staff in the Belfast, Southern and South-Eastern Trusts. We are now recruiting staff to perform this vitally important testing.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Ensuring the continued safe and clinically compliant operation of the end-to-end LAMP assay based on a standard operating procedure (aliquoting of samples, reaction mix preparation in a clean room, processing of samples, interpretation of results).
2. Authorising results in a timely manner.
3. Working in Containment Level 2 laboratories following local code of practice.
4. Assisting in the disposal of samples in accordance with all relevant guidelines.
5. Ensuring the continued safe and clinically compliant operation of the end-to-end LAMP assay based on a standard operating procedure (aliquoting of samples, reaction mix preparation in a clean room, processing of samples, interpretation of results).
6. Any other duties as required.

Planning and Organising:

1. Plan own day-to-day activity within the framework of the agreed testing programme.
2. Contribute to the planning of projects, reports and publications etc.

Resource Management Responsibilities:

1. Ensure research resources are used in the most effective and efficient manner.
2. Provide guidance as required to support staff and any students who may be assisting with research.

Internal and External Relationships:

1. Liaise with research colleagues and support staff on routine matters.
2. Attend and contribute to relevant meetings.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Degree in Microbiology, Pharmacy, Microbial Ecology, Molecular Microbiology, Bioinformatics, Biochemistry or related discipline.
2. At least 1-year recent relevant research experience in a laboratory setting.
3. Ability to carry out routine administrative tasks associated with the project.
4. Ability to undertake work across all sections of the laboratory.
5. Ability to communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing.
6. Have excellent attention to detail, communication and team-working skills.

7. Ability to present scientific arguments and data in a clear, concise and confident manner.
8. Ability to present regular reports on results to members of the LAMP Testing programme.
9. A conscientious scientist, able to work in a disciplined manner within a team environment.
10. Maintain effective communication with line managers and demonstrates a positive attitude to the work of the laboratory and other members of the team.
11. Willing to handle samples, which may contain potentially harmful pathogens.
12. Willing to work shifts which may be outside normal office hours.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Have or about to obtain a PhD in Microbiology, Pharmacy, Microbial Ecology, Molecular Microbiology, Bioinformatics, Biochemistry or related discipline.
2. Experience in handling clinical samples.