



Job Description and Person Specification

Summary

Job title:	Research Assistant in <i>Galleria mellonella</i> Envenoming
Area:	RIF Research Assistants – All Faculties Research Investment Fund
Reference:	EHA2619-0125
Grade and Salary:	£28081- £30505 per annum, pro rata. Grade 5, Points 19 - 22
Contract Type:	Fixed Term until 30/11/2025
Hours:	Part Time (14.5 hours per week)
Location:	Campus based role. Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 4QP
Accountable to:	Head of Department
Reporting to:	Principal Investigator

About the Role

Provide quality research support to an enthusiastic team of academics leading an NC3R funded research project titled '[Development of *Galleria mellonella* as a replacement preclinical model for snakebite envenoming to reduce the need for murine models](#)'. Snakebite envenoming is a globally neglected tropical disease with the only approved treatment being conventional antivenoms. The production of such antivenoms, as well as testing for alternative therapies, requires the use of murine preclinical models. In the first year of this project the role will support the development and validation of *Galleria mellonella* larvae as an alternative model to murine preclinical studies.

The role will be focused on maintenance of the *Galleria mellonella* colony established at Edge Hill University. This will include continuity of the colony and ensuring adequate numbers are available for the testing periods. The testing will include inoculation with a range of snake venoms and subsequent data collection. The main data will include visual scoring of movement, melanisation and silk production. Following this the role will require the dissection of larva and further visual assessments. On an ad hoc basis hemolymph extractions and subsequent biochemical assays will require processing.

Accurate record keeping of laboratory notebooks, data and records of the colony husbandry are an essential element to the role.

The applicant will be expected to support the principle investigator (PI) through graphical analysis of the data, development of novel methodologies, publication preparation, internal presentation of the results and general laboratory maintenance.

Specific duties and responsibilities

The post holder will be expected to complete:

1. Maintenance of the *Galleria mellonella* colony including general husbandry and documentation for monitoring of the lifecycle.
2. Data collection through assisting the research team with data collection employing the following methods relating to the *Galleria mellonella* model for envenoming; venom dosing, visual scoring of the larval pathology, dissections and hemolymph assessments.
3. Data processing and analysis through clear documentation of the visual scoring, dissection descriptions and hemolymph assessments. Basic analysis of the data using excel and R or GraphPad.

4. Presentation of results. Contribute to the presentation of results of research to internal groups/PI. Draft reports through appropriate word processing and data presentation software.
5. Literature searches. To undertake scoping surveys of bibliographic databases and literature search engines informed by up to date information on related research. Develop an understanding of a range of literature and gaps in literature.
6. Project administration. Some administration of projects under the supervision of the line manager, with responsibility for own areas of the project. Seek guidance when appropriate from PI.
7. Attending and contributing to research team meetings.
8. Adherence to the University's research governance framework
9. Contributing to the production of bids for research funding.
10. To make a positive contribution to the work of the Faculty/Department.

In addition to the above all Edge Hill University staff are required to:

- a) Adhere to all Edge Hill's policies and procedures, including Equality and Diversity and Health and Safety
- b) Respect confidentiality: all confidential information should be kept in confidence and not released to unauthorised persons
- c) Undertake appropriate learning and development activities as required
- d) Participate in Edge Hill's Performance Review and Development Scheme
- e) Adhere to Edge Hill University's environmental policy and guidelines and undertake tasks in a sustainable manner
- f) Demonstrate excellent Customer Care in dealing with all customers
- g) Proactively consider accessibility and ensure appropriate quality assurance of templates, documents and published outputs using software such as Microsoft Accessibility checker and Blackboard Ally

Eligibility

Candidates should note that shortlisting will be based on information provided on the application form with regard to the applicant's ability to meet the criteria outlined in the Person Specification attached.

Internal staff wishing to apply for a fixed term role as a secondment opportunity must discuss this with their existing line manager before applying.

Person Specification

Please note that applications will be assessed against the Person Specification using the following criteria, therefore, applicants should provide evidence of their ability to meet all criteria. Where a supporting statement is indicated you will be asked to provide a statement of how you meet this criterion within the application form.

Qualifications

Criteria	Essential or Desirable Criteria	Method of Assessment
Qualified to degree standard in relevant subject area	Essential	Application
Postgraduate qualification	Desirable	Application

Experience and Knowledge

Criteria	Essential or Desirable Criteria	Method of Assessment
Experience of carrying out comprehensive literature reviews	Essential	Supporting Statement, Interview
Experience of development of research design and data collection using identified methods	Essential	Supporting Statement, Interview
Experience of high-quality report writing	Essential	Supporting Statement
Experience of working in the Higher Education sector	Desirable	Application
Experienced in the use of appropriate software for data analysis	Essential	Supporting Statement, Test

Abilities and Skills

Criteria	Essential or Desirable Criteria	Method of Assessment
Demonstrate high level skills in in the use of Microsoft Office, particularly Excel, Word and the production of databases	Essential	Supporting Statement, Test
Able to work on own initiative, independently as well as part of a team	Essential	Supporting Statement, Interview

Criteria	Essential or Desirable Criteria	Method of Assessment
Able to organise and prioritise work effectively demonstrating flexibility and reliability to meet required deadlines	Essential	Supporting Statement, Interview
Able to work with integrity and manage effectively research data	Essential	Supporting Statement, Interview
Excellent communication skills both oral and written	Essential	Supporting Statement, Interview

Candidate Guidance and How to Apply

At Edge Hill University we value the benefits a rich and diverse workforce brings to our community and therefore welcome applications from all sections of society.

For informal enquiries about this vacancy, you may wish to contact: Rachel Clare, Principle Investigator on the NC3R grant at Rachel.Clare@edgehill.ac.uk.

When you are ready to start the formal application process, please [visit our Current Vacancies website](#), search for the role you wish to apply for, and select the 'Apply Online' button at the bottom of the job advert. The online application form can be completed in stages and can be revisited at any time. The form automatically saves as you enter your information, and you can move backwards and forwards between individual form sections at any time prior to application submission. Help is available at each stage to guide you through the form. Before final submission, you can preview your application and can then choose to refine or submit the form.

As part of your application, you will be asked to provide details of two referees. Please see our application form for guidance on how to nominate your referees.

Please refer to the advert for the closing date for this vacancy, all applications must be submitted by 11:59pm on this date. Please note that you will receive an automated email from our online recruitment portal to confirm receipt of your application. Please check your spam/junk mail if you do not receive this email.

Following the closing date, we will contact you by email to let you know whether or not you have been shortlisted to participate in the next stage of the selection process. We try our best to inform all applicants within two working weeks following the closing date.

If you are offered the post, the offer will be subject to pre-employment clearance. You will be asked to provide: proof of your right-to-work in the UK; proof of your identity and evidence of your qualifications and professional memberships as referenced as essential or desirable in the person specification for this role. You will also be asked to complete onboarding forms including a pre-employment health

questionnaire to support the University make appropriate adjustments to support you in the role. The University will also contact the referees you have nominated. Please note that you may be asked for alternative or additional referees as we seek references that cover your previous three years of employment history. Following successful completion of pre-employment clearances (including an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check, as relevant, please see job advert) a start date will then be arranged with you.