School of Life Sciences
Research Technician in Cancer Cell Signalling research
Full time, Fixed term 1 February 2017 until 30 April 2018
Salary range starting at £ 32,004 and rising to £38,183 per annum
Expected Start Date: Beginning of February 2017

The School of Life Sciences is at the forefront of research in the biological sciences in the UK, coming in the top 10 in the REF 2014.

We wish to appoint a Research Technician (Grade 7) to work in the Cancer Cell Signalling research laboratory of Dr Georgios Giamas. The Giamas laboratory focuses on the identification and elucidation of the role of proteins implicated in the progression of cancer and the development of novel therapeutic targets. Our translational research laboratory combines a variety of molecular, cellular and biochemical techniques along with established in vitro/in vivo models and patients’ specimens to study relevant pathways in cancer. In aggregate, our research links ‘bench work to bedside’ and can have an enormous impact to patients while at the same time supporting the entire scientific community.

An overview of research within the Cancer Cell Signalling theme can be found at: http://www.sussex.ac.uk/lifesci/giamaslab/

An overview of general research in the School of Life Sciences can be found at: http://www.sussex.ac.uk/lifesci.

The School is committed to equality and valuing diversity, and currently holds an Athena SWAN Silver Award. Applications are particularly welcomed from women and black and minority ethnic candidates, who are under-represented in academic posts in science and engineering at Sussex. The School of Life Sciences welcomes applications to academic posts from candidates who wish to work part-time or as job-sharers.

The University offers various schemes to provide real benefits to parents, these can be found at http://www.sussex.ac.uk/humanresources/personnel/familyfriendlypolicies

Potential candidates are strongly encouraged to make informal contact with Dr Georgios Giamas before applying. G.Giamas@sussex.ac.uk

Closing date for applications: 3 January 2017
Interviews will be held on : Mid January 2017

For full details and how to apply see www.sussex.ac.uk/jobs
The University of Sussex is committed to equality of opportunity
2. The School/Division

The School of Life Sciences is the largest School in the University in terms of research activity with an annual research income of over £12m, and one of the largest in terms of student and staff population. The School has a teaching and research faculty of nearly 70, over 150 research fellows and technicians, and a small professional services team. Life Sciences have played a major role in the research and teaching of the University of Sussex since 1961. The original School of Biological Sciences (BIOLS), founded by John Maynard Smith FRS, trained some of the world’s leading biologists and biomedical scientists, and was a beacon of innovation and creativity in its integrated approach to research and teaching.

The current School of Life Sciences was formed in 2009 when Professor Laurence Pearl FRS was appointed as founding Head of the new School. Under his leadership the School adopted a unified structure with no formal departments. Instead there are six research Subject Groups – Neuroscience; Evolution, Behaviour and Environment; Genome Damage and Stability; Biochemistry and Biomedicine; Chemistry and the Sussex Drug Discovery Centre. Each research subject group is chaired by a prominent scientist, who is responsible for research leadership in their subject. The School currently has six Fellows of the Royal Society (FRS) and seven Fellows of the Academy of Medical Sciences (FMedSci) on its Faculty.

The University has committed to building a new teaching and research building, which will bring life scientists from all disciplines together. Planning for this building is well under way and will provide both academic and social spaces to improve the culture and interaction in the School. The building is scheduled for delivery in 2017-18.

The School admits around 400 undergraduates each year on to a range of BSc and MSci degrees, with around 75 students on post-graduate taught degrees in Genetic Manipulation and Cell Biology, Cancer Cell Biology and Neuroscience. Taught programmes are firmly based on our research excellence, and offer students substantial opportunities for personal research experience along with conventional lecture, seminar and tutorial teaching. We offer 3-year BSc and 4-year integrated Masters degrees (MSci) in Biochemistry, Biomedical Science, Biology, Ecology, Genetics, Neurosciences, and Zoology, and Royal Society of Chemistry accredited BSc and MChem degrees in Chemistry and Chemistry and Drug Design. We also offer a Foundation Year in Biological Sciences which is ideally suited for students whose A-level (or equivalent) qualifications don’t meet the requirements for direct entry on to our BSc/Masters degrees. The first intake on the MPharm is in October 2016.

We have a large and vigorous post graduate research community with over 170 PhD students undertaking cutting-edge research across all our areas of interest. As well as standard PhD programmes in all the Subject Groups, we also offer a highly interdisciplinary 4-year Neurosciences PhD incorporating a first year with laboratory rotations, run in partnership with the Schools of Psychology and Engineering and Informatics, and the Brighton and Sussex Medical School.

In the REF2014 more than 96% of the School’s research was rated as ‘world leading’, ‘internationally excellent’, or ‘internationally recognised’. Our Biological Sciences research in particular was ranked 10th in the UK overall, and 8th on quality of our research outputs – putting us comfortably above the majority of Russell Group institutions.

The University of Sussex is a medium sized research intensive University based on a single campus in Falmer, just outside Brighton in East Sussex. The University has ambitious plans to develop its teaching and research; for example, to move from a taught student population of c13,000 to one of c18,000 by 2018.
3. Senior Leadership and management
The Vice-Chancellor (Professor Michael Farthing) is the senior academic officer and, as Chief Executive, is responsible to the University Council for management of the University. He is supported by an executive group which includes the three Pro-Vice-Chancellors, the Registrar and Secretary, the Director of Finance and the Director of Human Resources. The Heads of the Schools of Studies at Sussex report to the Pro-Vice-Chancellors.

The Registrar and Secretary heads the Professional Services of the University. In addition, under the University Statutes, the Registrar and Secretary is Secretary to the University Council. The Director of Finance reports to the Vice-Chancellor. The Director of ITS reports to the Registrar and Secretary, and the Librarian reports to one of the Pro-Vice-Chancellors.

4. Job Description and Person Specification

Department: Biochemistry and Biomedicine
School: School of Life Sciences
Location: JMS Building
Grade: 7
Responsible to: Principal Investigator (Dr Georgios Giamas)
Responsible for: PhD and MSc students

Purpose of the post - The management of the provision of an effective and efficient technical service within a large research project or a number of research projects, units or teams. Ensuring a safe environment for staff, students and visitors.

Key Responsibilities:

1. Carry out experiments as needed for the timely advancement of research projects. Interfacing with the Principal Investigator on a regular basis to discuss results and project progression/direction. Prepare, collate, analyse and interpret research data, drawing conclusions on the outcomes and contribute to collaborative decisions with colleagues in areas of research.

2. Responsible for the preparation of special (i.e. not generally commercially available) materials, compounds and solutions or equipment (electrical, electronic or mechanical).

3. Ensure the implementation of a safe working environment using good working practices, in line with relevant local and legal requirements. Undertake risk, or other safety, assessments and ensure standard operating procedures are in place and being followed to ensure the safety of others in the lab(s).

4. Order non-routine apparatus and materials to maintain adequate stock levels within policies laid down. Carry out budgeting exercises and cost control measures to ensure that all expenditure is within the agreed budget, making decision on purchases to ensure that the budget is maintained. Provide budgetary advice to the Principal Investigator.
Responsible for the organisation and supervision of a research/general laboratory(s), forward planning when necessary to meet the needs of the research group.

Responsible for overseeing the effectiveness and efficiency of existing procedures and developing new, or updating existing, procedures to improve levels of efficiency.

Responsible for ensuring that project equipment is functional at all times. Carrying out the regular first line maintenance tasks or minor repairs on all project equipment. Responsible for ensuring that all repairs are carried out and records are kept up to date. Identifying equipment that needs replacing and assisting in preparing specifications for equipment purchases in conjunction with the Principal Investigator.

Ensuring that adequate records of methods, sample details and results are prepared and maintained within the associated specific research project/s

Attend laboratory meetings and communicate with other departmental or University staff on laboratory issues.

Communicating advice, instructing, training and guiding a range of staff and students in techniques and operation of particular equipment / apparatus as directed by a supervisor or member of academic staff.

Undertake development activities, where necessary, in order to keep knowledge and skills up to date and relevant for subject specialism. Apply working knowledge of theory and practice, sharing this knowledge with others as appropriate.

Participate in external networks of specialist groups, technicians, government agencies, etc… to exchange ideas and best practice.

Responsible for the induction, supervision and development of other technical staff within own area of responsibility, as directed by a supervisor or member of academic staff.

Support of project students where appropriate.

This Job description sets out the current duties of the post that may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the post or the level of responsibility entailed.

Date: October 2016

**EXTRA FACTUAL DATA**

**Project specific duties:**

This job description is not exhaustive but is a guide to the main functions and responsibilities of the post. It is subject to constant review in the light of changes and development of the project. The post holder may be asked to undertake such duties as may be properly delegated following discussion and consultation.

- **Essential experience in:**
  a) Cellular biology techniques including: cell cultures (primary and immortalised cell lines), transfections (siRNA, shRNA, CRISPR-CAS), Immunofluorescence/confocal microscopy…
  b) Phenotypic assay protocols including: cell proliferation / viability / apoptosis / invasion / migration, …
  c) Molecular biology techniques including: cloning, site-directed mutagenesis, agarose gels, real-time RT-PCR, mini/maxi DNA preparations, …
  d) Biochemical techniques including: SDS-PAGE, Western blotting, GST-fusion protein purification, …
- **Desirable experience in:**
  i) HPLC/FPLC, FACS analysis, immunohistochemistry (IHC)
  ii) Working with p32 radioactivity (*in vitro* kinase assays)
  iii) Previous experience working in a cancer cell signalling laboratory

The post holder will be expected to work independently although supervision will be available in the event of a problem.

Person Specification:

**SKILLS / ABILITIES**

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<th>Essential</th>
<th>Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ability to work as part of a team and also to take on the role of team leader with the aptitude to motivate others when required.</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>Proven ability to work independently and use initiative where appropriate.</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>Demonstrable IT skills in Word, Excel, email and internet</td>
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<td>Competent in using specialist lab equipment.</td>
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<td>Numerate &amp; literate with good oral and written English communication skills.</td>
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<td>Good organisational skills with an ability to prioritise to meet set deadlines.</td>
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**KNOWLEDGE**

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<th>Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>Working knowledge of Health and Safety e.g. conducting risk assessments, as it pertains to the environment.</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>Significant knowledge of cancer cell signalling</td>
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<td>The technician is required to have sufficient knowledge and/or expertise to work on day to day issues in own area without direct or continuous reference to others.</td>
<td>X</td>
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**EXPERIENCE**

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<td>Possession of a breadth and/or depth of experience showing full working knowledge and proficiency of own area of expertise and the ability to discharge the role effectively and efficiently.</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extensive experience in the following techniques: Cellular biology, Phenotypic assay protocols, Molecular biology and Biochemical</td>
<td>X</td>
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**QUALIFICATIONS**

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<th>Essential</th>
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<tr>
<td>Normally expected to have a Degree or a Level 6 NVQ or an equivalent Professional qualification (CSci) or experience in an appropriate field</td>
<td>X</td>
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## PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES AND CIRCUMSTANCES

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<td>Proficiency to handle confidential matters expeditiously.</td>
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<td>Willing to act as a point of reference to others and demonstrate continuous specialist development, acquiring and refining skills and expertise in new or related areas.</td>
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<td>Dependable and reliable.</td>
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<td>Willing to coach and instruct other team members.</td>
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<td>Flexibility to work outside normal hours if required.</td>
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<td>Friendly and approachable</td>
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<td>Willingness to supervise, work as part of, and contribute to a team.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Will be a member of a relevant professional body i.e. IST, for example.</td>
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