University of Sunderland
Role Profile
Part 1

Senior Research Assistant	
Job Title:	Senior Research Assistant
Reference No:	
Reports to:	Dr Matthew Campbell
Grade:	D
Working Hours:	37
Faculty/Service:	Health Sciences and Wellbeing
Location:	Sciences Complex, City Campus, University of Sunderland and/or LICAMM University of Leeds

Main Purpose of Role:	• Participate in research activity through specialism in one of the following disciplines:
	   ○ cellular biology techniques, OR
	   ○ human clinical trials, OR
	   ○ bioinformatics/computational biology, OR
	   ○ big data digital healthcare
	• Contribute to the planning and conduct of research, data analysis, and dissemination of research findings.

Key Responsibilities and Accountabilities:	Faculty Specific: • Carry out high quality applied research within agreed timelines, meeting project milestones and to an appropriate standard in line with the Research milestones • Ensure that research activity and any data collection is consistent with current research governance instructions and Data Protection legislation • To provide one-on-one assistance to the Group researchers requiring discipline-specific expertise and advice. • To contribute to the preparation of grant reports to funder, scientific publications and regular technical updates. • Liaise with colleagues within and beyond the University and partnering organisations to maintain and develop networks for the exchange of information and to form relationships for future collaboration. Generic to all Senior Research Assistant roles: • Conduct individual and collaborative research and assist with related reach-out projects. • Assist with the dissemination of research findings and reach-out activities through publication, presentation or exhibition. • Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism. • Translate knowledge of advances in the subject area or professional

	practice into research activity.
Special Circumstances:	• Willingness to temporarily work at, or travel to, collaborating organisations as required. • Willingness to work outside of normal working hours albeit infrequently (including evenings and weekends), from time to time, as required. • Contribute to the writing of grant applications to generate external research income. • Support, on an ad-hoc basis, undergraduate and/or postgraduate teaching and/or research supervision. • Champion a positive approach to change and opportunity, encourage inclusive participation, and support and develop staff to optimise talent. • Undertake other duties and tasks as may be necessary after consultation with the post holder's line manager(s), required by the Group, and commensurate with the post holder's grade.

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Role Profile

Part 2

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Part 2A: Essential and Desirable Criteria

Essential

Qualifications and Professional Memberships:

- Educated to degree level or equivalent in an appropriate biological science or computational discipline

Knowledge and Experience:

- You must have excellent verbal and written communication skills and be able to demonstrate a keen ability to develop and apply new concepts and have a creative approach to problem-solving.
- A good knowledge of cellular and/or systems biology within the context of diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

Desirable

Qualifications and Professional Memberships:

- A post graduate degree (e.g., PhD or nearing completion of a PhD) and a track record of peer-reviewed publications in an appropriate biological science or computational discipline

Knowledge and Experience:

- The ideal candidate will have the passion and drive to tackle and overcome scientific problems.
- Previous work experience in handling clinical trial data is beneficial.
- Strong programming skills (preferably R) and high working proficiency in data handling, processing, analysis, and interpretation is also advantageous.

Part 2B: Key Competencies

Competencies are assessed at the interview/selection testing stage

Analysis & Research

- Gathers data rigorously and conducts robust analysis, questioning assumptions and existing knowledge
- Develops hypotheses and concepts to explain data, events and phenomena
- Reports findings to wider community and is able to withstand challenge by relying on evidence gathered and processes used for analysis

Communication

Oral Communication

- Summarises and interprets complex, conceptual and special matters to aid

others' understanding and aimed at their needs
- Uses appropriate styles and arguments to influence and negotiate satisfactory outcomes
- Monitors understanding of others, develops approach and takes corrective action if required

Written Communication

- Conveys information of a complex, conceptual and specialist nature using a range of styles and media selected to meet the needs of others
- Presents complex information in formats appropriate to non-specialists without comprising meaning
- Monitors the reactions of others and takes appropriate steps to remedy any miscommunications

Decision Making

Independent Decisions

- Considers wider impact of decisions, assesses possible outcomes and their likelihood
- Uses judgement to make decisions with limited or ambiguous data and takes account of multiple factors
- Distinguishes between the need to make a decision, when to defer and when not to take a decision

Collaborative Decisions

- Helps others to explore options that initially appear to be inappropriate or unfeasible and recognise when a decision is or is not needed
- Enables others to contribute to decisions
- Ensures that options are weighed, outcomes identified, and chances of success considered
- Challenges decisions, appropriately to ensure consideration and processes are robust

Provision of Advice

- Anticipates and highlights issues that need to be taken into account
- Outlines possible impacting factors, assessing their degree of influence on the choice of options
- Ensures previous learning is included

Initiative & Problem Solving

- Analyses problems to identify their cause
- Takes action to prevent recurrence of problems
- Considers possible solutions to identify those which offer wider benefits
- Obtains evidence to support intuition

Date Completed:	**March 2021**