

Job Description

Job title	Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Biological and Biomedical Sciences – Molecular Genetics and Genomics
School	Life Sciences and Education
Normal Workbase	Stoke
Tenure	Fixed term contract for 16 months (Maternity Cover)
Grade/Salary	Grade 7/8 (dependent on experience)
FTE	Ful-Time, 1.0 FTE

Job Purpose

- To support the development and delivery of the academic provision to undergraduate and postgraduate students, as required, ensuring an excellent student experience
- To undertake teaching and teaching-related activities as determined by the Course Leader/Head of Department
- To participate in research, knowledge exchange, public engagement and/or scholarly activity for personal development and to enhance the reputation of the University
- To lead/contribute to University and/or School initiatives in line with strategic business plan
- For a Senior Lecturer, take a leading role in the above activities, supporting the Head of Department with operational management responsibilities, as required.

Relationships

Reporting to: Head of Department

Main Activities

- To teach and assess, as part of a teaching team, in the areas of knowledge appropriate to the School provision, and where appropriate, across other Schools of the University
- To contribute to the development of specialist teaching and learning provision, including short courses, in **Genetics, Molecular Genetics and Genomics** and associated disciplines.
- To devise and deliver modules as determined by the Course Leader/Head of Department and to ensure that learning materials and methods of delivery meet defined learning objectives
- To enhance the quality of teaching provision and programme development, drawing on leading practices from the HE and other sectors, and building e-learning into the delivery of teaching to students as appropriate
- To participate with other staff in the development of teaching, learning and assessment strategies
- To contribute to student support in administrative and pastoral roles, including advice to students on resits and to provide post-results counselling
- To represent both the course and the School in student recruitment activities, including

participation in Clearing activities and in Open Days throughout the year

- To attend and contribute to School meetings, project teams and working groups in line with strategic initiatives as required
- To contribute to the subject's activities and reputation both internally and externally
- To exercise a high standard of advanced scholarship activity both personally and as a member of a team, working with colleagues to develop an inclusive, team-orientated approach to such activities
- To enhance the School's ability to engage with industrial and external partner contacts through effective networking to build relationships for future activities
- To pursue enterprise and research activities which enhance the external revenue of the School and to deliver various forms of consultancy and other services as determined by the Head of Department
- To support and participate in the development of a strong research profile (where appropriate) for the discipline through personal research or support for research active individuals
- To maintain and develop areas of expertise under the general guidance and oversight of the Head of Department
- To undertake both general Health & Safety responsibilities in accordance with the University's Health & Safety Policy and in addition, to provide such supervision as is necessary to ensure the health and safety of all students
- To undertake appropriate professional development and mandatory training activities as identified or required (See Professional Development section)
- The role holder is required to minimise environmental impact in the performance of their role and to actively contribute to the delivery of the University's Environmental Sustainability Policy
- To undertake other such responsibilities as may reasonably be required by the Head of Department and/or Dean of School

Specific responsibilities of a Lecturer:

- To undertake operational responsibilities associated with the delivery of academic provision, including the leadership of modules/small courses, as directed by the Head of Department.

Specific responsibilities of a Senior Lecturer:

- To be responsible for the development, design, delivery and leadership of modules at various levels, including assessment methods, ensuring that the learning materials and methods of delivery meet defined learning objectives.
- To be responsible for course leadership within own area of academic/subject expertise and to set the strategic agenda for the award in the context of the School's objectives and the University strategic plan
- To undertake operational management and/or academic leadership responsibilities such as leading the development and management of one or more courses and the management of the students on the course(s); undertaking administrative responsibilities as allocated (e.g. level tutor); making an important contribution to the accreditation of courses and quality control processes; playing a key role in validations, liaising with accreditation bodies as necessary.
- To make an important contribution to curriculum development and new course development, leading where required
- To take on responsibilities (leading small projects where appropriate), in relation to University led and/or School strategic initiatives including areas such as commercial income generation

activity; student recruitment and retention; partnership development; development of flexible and work-based learning provision; development of widening participation activities.

- To support the Head of Department in the effective day to day operation of the allocated academic area.
- To conduct appraisals in the subject team as directed by the Head of Department, to set workloads and to allocate team responsibilities for the course
- To act as a mentor to colleagues and to support the development of less experienced colleagues as appropriate.

The above represents the range of activities, which could typically be expected of an academic member of staff in the University, which is neither prescriptive nor exhaustive.

Special Conditions

The postholder will be required to travel and represent the University in the UK and Overseas as required.

There will be a need for the postholder to work occasional weekends to cover marketing and recruitment activities.

There will be a need for flexible working practices by the role-holder to support different forms of delivery such as distance and accelerated learning. In addition, the role holder may be required to undertake their role off site, which may include overnight stays either in the UK or abroad.

External Activities

External activities for example membership of professional bodies, external examiner roles and journal editorial work which enhance the work of the post holder are encouraged within the overall provisions of the exclusivity of the service arrangements to which the post holder is subject. Additionally, the Institution expects employees to take a cross University role e.g., through membership of Committees and Working Parties.

Professional Development

The University is keen to support staff in achieving high standards of pedagogy in order to facilitate effective student learning. All newly appointed full-time and fractional contracted members of academic staff who have less than three years teaching experience and do not have the equivalent qualification from another University, are required to undertake and complete the most appropriate route from either the Academic Professional Apprenticeship (APA), Post Graduate Certificate in Higher and Professional Education (PgCHPE) or Post Graduate Diploma in Professional Education in Healthcare (PgDPEH). This must be commenced within 24 months of appointment as a condition of their employment with Staffordshire University. If you are shortlisted, the chair of the interview panel will explain this further.

All members of academic staff will be expected to achieve Fellowship of the HEA within an agreed timescale after commencement.

Research and Scholarly Activity

The duties of lecturing posts include participation in appropriate research and scholarly activity indicated in the research policy of the University. The extent of involvement in research and scholarly activity may vary with the balance between teaching, administration and research appropriate to particular posts. This will be determined by your Dean of School in consultation with you and will be reviewed regularly through the staff appraisal system. While it is in the nature of research and scholarly activity that it will often take place throughout the year and be integrated into the overall pattern of activities, it is envisaged that the periods of the year outside normal teaching weeks and the holiday entitlement will primarily be devoted to research and scholarly activity.

Where new staff can demonstrate a strong research background and a profile, which indicates potential to achieve research excellence consideration will be given to allocation of appropriate protected research time during the normal workload allocation cycle.

Variation to Job Description

Staffordshire University reserves the right to vary the duties and responsibilities of its employees within the general conditions of the Scheme of pay and conditions and employment related matters. Thus, it must be appreciated that the duties and responsibilities outlined above may be altered as the changing needs of the service may require.

Conditions of Service

The post is subject to such terms and conditions of employment as negotiated between the Board of Governors of the University and the recognised trade unions, and/or the employees of the University. In negotiating such terms and conditions the Board of Governors will consider any appropriate advice received from the Universities and Colleges Employers Association (UCEA).

Informal Discussion

Should you wish to discuss this vacancy informally before making an application please contact:

Dr Sarah Williams, Course Director, School of Life Sciences and Education. Tel: 01782 295829

Application Procedure

We encourage you to apply on-line at our website <http://jobs.staffs.ac.uk> as the system is user friendly and simple to complete.

We would ask all applicants to ensure that they have provided comprehensive information under each criteria in the Supporting Statements section of the application form and, if necessary, add any relevant additional information in the Additional Information Section.

Guidance for Disclosure Applicants

Please note that, if offered this position, the appointment procedure requires an Enhanced level of Disclosure with the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) (formerly CRB) as detailed above in the enclosed job description.

Enhanced Disclosures are for posts that involve a significant degree of contact with children or vulnerable adults. In general, the type of work will involve regularly caring for, supervising, training or being in sole charge of such people or in specified regulated activity (e.g.RGN, RMN etc.).

A Disclosure is a document containing information held by the police and government departments. It can be used by employers to make safer recruitment decisions and is provided by the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS), an executive agency of the Home Office. Disclosures will provide details of a person's criminal record including relevant cautions, convictions, reprimands and warnings held on the Police National Computer (PNC). Depending on the level of Disclosure it might also contain information held by government departments and local police forces.

In applying for a Disclosure, the successful applicant will be provided with the relevant form and guidance notes supplied by DBS. The form must be completed and returned to Human Resources and Organisational Development together with various **original** documents confirming identity (full details will be provided at the time). The successful applicant will be required to disclose all reprimands, warnings, cautions and convictions that are not 'protected' as defined by the *Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 (Amendment) (England and Wales) Order 2013*. Certain spent reprimands, warnings, convictions and cautions are 'protected' and as such are not required to be disclosed. Any such protected offences cannot be taken into account, when making recruitment and suitability decisions.

The completed Disclosure application form will be countersigned and forwarded to the DBS by Human Resources and Organisational Development.

The DBS will then undertake the necessary checks with the Police and other relevant authorities.

After all checks have been carried out, the DBS will send the Disclosure certificate directly to the applicant, which will list any details obtained from those checks. This Disclosure certificate must be presented to the HR to be scrutinised- details of whom this document must be presented to will be given at the time. In the event of the DBS check highlighting information held on any of the databases accessed, it may be necessary for a meeting to be convened with the successful applicant in order for an informed decision to be made as to whether or not this affects the offer of appointment. The final decision as to whether appointment can proceed will be made by the Assistant Director of Human Resources.

Policy Statement on the Recruitment and Employment of Ex-Offenders

Background

The first priority of Staffordshire University is the safety and welfare of children and vulnerable adults in our care, who use the services of the University or come into contact with members of the University. We intend to achieve this by exercising rigour and vigilance in employment-making; criminal record Disclosures are central to this.

Recipients of criminal record Disclosures must duly comply with the DBS Code of Practice as well as the University's policies and procedures. Disclosure information will be treated as sensitive personal data; recipients will follow the University's data protection and criminal record checking procedure when handling Disclosure information. The University will treat all applicants fairly judging people's criminal records on merit, in accordance with the law and in relation to the responsibilities of the post in question. The University will not subject anyone

who discloses a criminal record to unfair treatment on the basis of convictions, subject to relevant legislation and reasonable judgement.

Policy Statement

- As an organisation using the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) Disclosure service to assess applicants' suitability for positions of trust, Staffordshire University complies fully with the DBS Code of Practice and undertakes to treat all applicants for positions fairly. It undertakes not to discriminate unfairly against any subject of a Disclosure on the basis of a conviction or other information revealed
- Staffordshire University is committed to the fair treatment of its staff, potential staff or users of its services, regardless of gender, race, nationality, religion or belief, disability, age, sexual orientation or trades union activity or offending background
- We have a written policy on the employment of ex-offenders which is available on the University's website
- We actively promote equality of opportunity for all with the right mix of talent, skills and potential and welcome applications from a wide range of candidates, including those with criminal records. We select all candidates for interview based on their skills, qualifications and experience
- A Disclosure is only requested after a thorough risk assessment has indicated that one is both proportionate and relevant to the position concerned. For those positions where a Disclosure is required, all job advertisements and job descriptions will contain a statement that a disclosure will be requested in the event of the individual being offered the position
- Where a Disclosure is to form part of the recruitment process, we encourage all applicants called for interview to provide details of their criminal record at an early stage in the application process. We request that this information is sent under separate, confidential cover, to Human Resources and Organisational Development at Staffordshire University, and we guarantee that this information will only be seen by those who need to see it as part of the recruitment process
- Disclosure is required for all reprimands, warnings, cautions and convictions that are not 'protected' as defined by the *Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 (Amendment) (England and Wales) Order 2013*. Certain spent reprimands, warnings, convictions and cautions are 'protected' and as such are not required to be disclosed. Any such protected offences cannot be taken into account, when making recruitment and suitability decisions
- We ensure that those at Staffordshire University who are involved in the recruitment process have been suitably trained to identify and assess the relevance and circumstances of the offences. We also ensure that they have received appropriate training and guidance in the relevant legislation relating to the employment of ex-offenders
- At interview, or in a separate discussion, we ensure that an open and measured discussion takes place on the subject of any offences or other matter that might be relevant to the position. Failure to reveal information that is directly relevant to the position sought could lead to a withdrawal of an offer of employment
- We make every subject of a DBS Disclosure aware of the existence of the DBS Code of Practice and make a copy available on request

- We undertake to discuss any matter revealed in a Disclosure with the person seeking the position before withdrawing a conditional offer of employment

Having a criminal record is not necessarily a bar to working with us; this will depend on the nature of the position, the circumstances and background of offences.