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**Job Description**

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| **Job title** | Prize Fellow |
| **Department/School** | Life Sciences |
| **Job family** | Education and Research |
| **Grade** | 8 |
| **Reporting to** | Principal Investigator (PI) or Co-Investigator (CI) for area of research  |
| **Responsible for** | Research students and/or other research staff |
| **Location** | University of Bath premises  |

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| **Background and context** |
| The Department of Life Sciences at the University of Bath was established in August 2022 through merger of the Departments of Biology & Biochemistry and Pharmacy & Pharmacology. It is home to over 100 academic staff with expertise in a variety of disciplines including bioinformatics, cell and developmental biology, evolution, epidemiology, genetics, microbiology, medicinal chemistry, pharmacology, pharmaceutics and structural biology. Many of the academic staff are also members of the Milner Centre for Evolution (<https://www.bath.ac.uk/research-centres/milner-centre-for-evolution/>), a particular strength of which is microbial evolution.  An emerging theme within the department is the microbiome, with current research projects addressing different aspects of the gut, skin, plant and soil microbiota. We now seek to grow this microbiome focus across all the research domains of the department, building on the foundations of the current projects whilst drawing on the established strengths in microbial evolution within the Milner Centre as well as in model organism and organoid-based disease modelling more broadly across the department. A Prize Fellow will have a proven record of research achievement, evidenced by high-quality research publications as well as other indicators (such as prizes, fellowships, awards etc) with clear potential to become an independent investigator. Their research experience and future plans will embrace some aspect of microbiota biology, including but not restricted to:• microbial community ecology• mechanisms of host-microbe interactions• biodiversity• food security• pharmacomicrobiomics • microbiomes in human diseaseThis is a fixed-term (3-year) position intended to provide a route to independence for promising postdoctoral scientists seeking to establish a career in academia. To this end, it is fully research focussed with no administrative duties and minimal involvement in teaching. In return, it is expected that the holder will secure significant extramural funding – ideally but not exclusively, a Research Fellowship (such as a Royal Society URF, Wellcome Trust or UKRI award) within the time-frame of the appointment. Success in establishing an externally-funded research programme will lead to a full time permanent (tenured) appointment at least at the Assistant Professor/Lecturer level. There is no compulsory retirement age. The department is located on the main University campus, in close proximity to the Departments of Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Computer Science, Mathematics and Physics. There is a strong interdisciplinary and collaborative culture across departments, fostered by a number of research centres including those for Therapeutic Innovation (CTI), Mathematical Biology (CMB) and Bioengineering and Biomedical Technologies (CBio). The department boasts a suite of environmentally controlled culture rooms as well as greenhouses, a zebrafish aquarium, Drosophila laboratory, a GridION and PromethION 2 Solo nanopore sequencing facility and a range of dedicated microscopes including confocal, 2-photon, light-sheet and TIRF. Researchers within the department also have access to the university’s central imaging and mass spectrometry facilities as well as the GW4 Cryo-EM facility located at nearby Bristol University (<https://www.bristol.ac.uk/gw4-electron-cryo-microscopy/equipment/>). The Department of Life Sciences is committed to supporting excellence in research and teaching and offers both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in Biosciences and Biomedical sciences including Pharmacy and Pharmacology.   |

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| **Job purpose** |
| To conduct high quality research including securing funding via research grants and/or fellowship applications and building a research group appropriate to the home department. |

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| **Main duties and responsibilities**  |
| **1** | Conduct individual and/or collaborative research projects that result in high impact research related to some aspect of microbiomics. Develop research objectives, projects and proposals. Set standards by scoping projects and managing its delivery (e.g. timeline, budget, quality) to fulfil research grant proposals. |
| **2** | Publish in high quality peer-reviewed journals appropriate to the discipline.  |
| **3** | Secure funding from external agencies, ideally in an individual capacity but also as part of a team. |
| **4** | Train and support colleagues in developing their research techniques.  |
| **5** | Develop and sustain an external research profile and reputation and international research links through activities such as: * Overseas research visits
* Conference presentations
* Conference organisation
* Refereeing
* Public engagement activities
 |
| **6** | Promote and engage in interdisciplinary research activities. |
| **7** | Contribute to the supervision, training and research of graduate students and undergraduate project students and the assessment of student knowledge (from 2nd year of appointment).  |
| **8** | Act as a Personal Tutor to undergraduate students (from 2nd year of appointment) |
| **9** | Disseminate knowledge of research advances to inform the departmental teaching effort. |
| **10** | Provide input into wider departmental work and planning. |
|  | You will from time to time be required to undertake other duties of a similar nature as reasonably required by your line manager. You are required to follow all University policies and procedures at all times and take account of University guidance.  |

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**Person Specification**

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| **Criteria** | **Essential** | **Desirable** |
| **Qualifications** |  |  |
| A PhD degree in subject area of direct relevance for the project, or equivalent significant relevant experience and professional qualification | √ |  |
| **Experience/Knowledge**This criteria will be referenced to the appendix 3 of the Career Progression in the Education and Research Job Family document. |  |  |
| Postdoctoral experience in a relevant research field | √ |  |
| Established area of independent expertise in research demonstrating a commitment to the highest standards of ethics and integrity in research; | √ |  |
| Demonstrated expertise and knowledge in the latest developments in the field of research and in research design | √ |  |
| Demonstrated potential to attract research funds | √ |  |
| Demonstrated a sustained and auditable research record of outputs and a portfolio of articles published in high quality peer-reviewed journals and/or conference proceedings (or other outputs appropriate to the discipline, e.g. books/book chapters/portfolio of commercially sensitive reports) based on their work. | √ |  |
| Record of successful supervision of researchers | √ |  |
| Understanding of university research funding mechanisms |  | √ |
| Engagement with relevant national and international research communities |  | √ |
| **Skills** |  |  |
| Excellent presentation and communication skills (e.g. in publishing and presenting research, training and outreach activities) – both oral and written | √ |  |
| An inspiring research supervisor with broad interests across the subject area with effective people management skills | √ |  |
| Leadership, organisational and administrative skills  | √ |  |
| Strong expertise and ability in the preparation of research proposals, conducting individual research work and the dissemination of results and impact | √ |  |
| Ability to organise and prioritise own and others’ workloads | √ |  |
| Ability to write research reports and to effectively disseminate outcomes | √ |  |
| High level of proficiency in experimental techniques (as appropriate to discipline) | √ |  |
| Proficiency in utilising IT to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of research work (as appropriate to discipline) | √ |  |
| **Attributes** |   |  |
| Versatile, innovative and developing creative solutions  | √ |  |
| Commitment to excellence in research, and to providing the highest quality experience for students | √ |  |
| Ability to be an effective interdisciplinary team worker | √ |  |
| Commitment to safe working practices | √ |  |
| Commitment to working within professional and ethical codes of conduct | √ |  |
| Commitment to collaborative and interdisciplinary research | √ |  |