

FBMH Teaching Opportunity: Postgraduate Laboratory Skills Unit

Closing date: Friday 22 August 2025

Brief description

Students enrolled in several taught MSc and MRes programmes within the Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health come from a variety of scientific disciplines and therefore have different levels of laboratory experience.

The Laboratory Skills unit provides theoretical and hands-on experience of techniques used in both the wet and dry laboratory environment. The aim of the unit is to equip students with the theoretical understanding and practical skills relating to laboratory and computer-based biomedical techniques to enable them to undertake experimental research in the biomedical sciences.

The unit will be delivered to approximately 130 postgraduate students between October and the end of November 2025. Students are required to attend and successfully complete online MCQ assessments for 2 out of 3 workshops they attend (worth 20% of unit mark). In addition, a coursework element worth 80% of the unit mark requires students to submit a written practical report for one workshop they attend.

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| Course/Programme of Study: | BIOL66111 Laboratory Skills Unit |
| Responsible to: | Unit Coordinator, Dr Sue Taylor |
| Type and Level of Appointee: | Postdoctoral Research Associate |
| Key Responsibilities and Resources: | <p>We are looking to recruit PDRA's who will</p> <p>1. Support the students with their theoretical knowledge and practical skills in the laboratory workshops. The techniques covered in each of the workshops are detailed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Manual pipetting, serial dilutions and weights and measuresii. Staining techniques: histological staining, ICC, immunohistochemistryiii. Nucleic acid extraction, amplification and electrophoresis, PCR (theory only) and Real-time PCRiv. Protein handling techniques: Protein quantification, SDS-PAGE and Western blottingv. Scientific report writing <p>Each PDRA will also be required to work directly with small groups of 10/12 students. The PDRA will work under the guidance of the unit coordinator and unit teaching staff to:</p> <p>2. Facilitate small group teaching during face-to-face workshops on scientific report writing.</p> <p>This includes how to compile a figure (including figure legends), writing the results and discussion and referencing the relevant scientific literature.</p> |
| Time Commitment/ Hours/ Dates: | <p>It is anticipated that the role will require:</p> <p>3-4 hours in each face-to-face lab workshop session (2-3 sessions per PDRA).</p> |

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| | 2 hours in small group discussions (Workshop 4 - Scientific Writing) |
| Person Specification incl. Essential Knowledge Skills and Experience: | <p>It would be desirable for you to have theoretical background and practical research experience related to some or all the following techniques and their applications: manual handling, light/ fluorescent and confocal microscopy, nucleic acid extraction, amplification, electrophoresis and PCR, Real-time PCR, SDS-PAGE and Western blotting.</p> <p>In addition, applicants should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work well in a team and build relationships at all levels. • Be responsive to the students by supporting and encouraging their learning. • Have a willingness and commitment to undertake the duties described in the role outline. • Have some interest in the pedagogy of learning, assessment, and feedback. |
| Training and Support: | Unit Coordinator and academic staff |
| Applications for fellowship of HEA or UoM LEAP award | PDRA's who wish to submit an application are encouraged to do so. Support can be provided through a written reference aligned to relevant aspects of UKPSF. |
| Application Details and Recruitment Process: | <p>Please provide a brief statement (maximum of one side of A4) by Friday 22 August 2025 about why you are interested in the opportunity and what experience you would bring. Applications should be e-mailed to susan.h.taylor@manchester.ac.uk</p> <p>NB. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that their line managers agree to this contribution to Postgraduate teaching.</p> <p>Please send any informal inquiries to susan.h.taylor@manchester.ac.uk</p> |
| Deadline for Application: | Friday 22 August 2025 to: susan.h.taylor@manchester.ac.uk |