



CANCER
RESEARCH
UK

Manchester
Institute

Job Reference Number:

MI/25/63

Position:

Associate Scientist

Group/Department:

Cancer Dynamics

Salary:

£45,000 – £60,000 (dependent upon experience) per annum

Duration:

Non-time limited position



CRUK MI FURTHER PARTICULARS



Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute is a Research Institute within The University of Manchester and is core funded by Cancer Research UK



MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester



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PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENT

Ref: **MI/25/63**

Job Title: **Associate Scientist**

1. The Institute invites applications for the above post.
2. Salary will be within the range of £45,000 – £60,000 per annum, dependent upon experience.
3. Applications should be submitted via JobMarker, the online recruitment system by the closing date as stipulated in the advert.
4. For applicants who require assistance with their application please contact the HR Department for further information on:
Tel: +44 (0)161 306 9752
Email: jobs@cruk.manchester.ac.uk
5. Informal enquiries can be made to Prof Samra Turajlic, email: samra.turajlic@cruk.manchester.ac.uk
6. Applicants are advised that if the Institute receives a high level of applications, we reserve the right to close the vacancy earlier than advertised.
7. The Institute will endeavour to contact shortlisted candidates promptly. However, there may be occasions where a high volume of applications are received, therefore an applicant's patience is appreciated.
8. As an equal opportunity employer, we welcome applicants from all sections of the community regardless of age, sex, gender (or gender identity), ethnicity, disability, nationality, religion or belief, sexual orientation, marital or transgender status. All appointments are made on merit.





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COPY OF THE ADVERTISEMENT

The Institute will actively foster a culture of inclusion and diversity and will seek to achieve true equality of opportunity for all members of its community.

Associate Scientist

Cancer Dynamics Laboratory

- Starting salary in the range of £45,000 – £60,000 (dependent upon experience) per annum
- Job Ref: MI/25/63
- Duration: permanent role

BACKGROUND:

The Cancer Dynamics Laboratory (Turajlic) studies the evolutionary principles that shape cancer – from its genomic origins to its interactions with the immune system and response to therapy. Our research integrates patient data, experimental models, and computational approaches to understand how tumours evolve, evade, and respond, with the ultimate goal of improving cancer outcomes.

We are expanding our research footprint with the establishment of the Cancer Dynamics Lab – Manchester, a new hub at the Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute (CRUK MI). Operating across sites at CRUK MI and the Francis Crick Institute, this is a unique opportunity to join a collaborative and ambitious team at the interface of discovery and translation.

The Associate Scientist will be involved in running independent research projects including supervising teams of scientists (including postgraduate research students/projects). The Associate Scientist will be required to build collaborations with academics and scientists in other departments and institutions in order to maximise the research output of the Group.

About the role:

We are seeking a highly motivated and accomplished Associate Scientist to help lead and shape the programme. You will act as an operational deputy to Professor Samra Turajlic, helping to bridge activities between the two sites, supervise projects and researchers, drive key scientific initiatives, and contribute to the writing of high-impact papers and competitive grants. The role will be based at CRUK MI but expected to integrate closely with the team in the Crick and work effectively across sites.

This role offers genuine independence, leadership responsibility, and visibility, within the University of Manchester and CRUK MI. The Associate Scientist will play a central



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role in delivering our strategic vision and advancing CRUK's mission to beat cancer sooner.

About you:

You should have a PhD in cancer biology, biochemistry or relevant discipline along with extensive postdoctoral experience gained in a cancer research laboratory. You will have high levels of organisational and time management skills and the ability to prioritise and handle competing demands and work to deadlines with limited supervision.

What you will get in return:

- Fantastic market leading Pension scheme
- Excellent employee health and wellbeing services including an Employee Assistance Programme
- Exceptional starting annual leave entitlement, plus bank holidays
- Local and national discounts at a range of major retailers

Why choose Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute?

The CRUK Manchester Institute (www.cruk.manchester.ac.uk), an Institute of The University of Manchester (www.manchester.ac.uk), is a world-leading centre for excellence in cancer research. The Institute is core funded by Cancer Research UK (www.cancerresearchuk.org), the largest independent cancer research organisation in the world. In spring 2023 the Institute moved into a £150 million flagship purpose-built biomedical research centre directly attached to The Christie NHS Foundation Trust (www.christie.nhs.uk), in South Manchester.

We are partnered with The Christie NHS Foundation Trust, one of the largest cancer treatment centres in Europe. These factors combine to provide an exceptional environment in which to pursue basic, translational and clinical research programmes.

Take a look around the [Institute](#) for more information.

How to apply?

For further information about the project and to apply for this position please visit our website: <https://www.cruk.manchester.ac.uk/careers/>

For any informal enquiries about this post, please contact Prof Samra Turajlic: samra.turajlic@cruk.manchester.ac.uk

Closing date: 16 December 2025.



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Disabilities and alternative formats

The University of Manchester is a disability confident Leader and is committed to supporting disabled people in recruitment, employment, and career development. We will make reasonable adjustments to enable applicants to compete to the best of their ability wherever it is reasonable to do so. Therefore, if you have any additional support needs throughout the recruitment process or require documentation in alternative formats, please do not hesitate to contact the HR Department, for further information, on:

Tel: +44 (0)161 306 9752

Email: jobs@cruk.manchester.ac.uk



The Disability Confident scheme, accredited by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), helps employers recruit, retain and train great people. Disability Confident organisations play a leading role in changing attitudes about, and increasing understanding of, disability. There are three levels of the scheme with Leader being the highest.



CANCER RESEARCH UK MANCHESTER INSTITUTE JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB DETAILS

Job Title: Associate Scientist

Grade: CRUK MI5

Department: Cancer Dynamics* (Turajlic)

Division: Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute (CRUK MI)

** The Lab operates across sites - CRUK MI and the Francis Crick Institute, the role will be based at MI but expected to integrate closely with the team in the Crick and work effectively across sites.*

ORGANISATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Accountable to: Prof Samra Turajlic, Cancer Dynamics Senior Group Leader & CRUK Manchester Institute Director

JOB PURPOSE

To act as an operational deputy on behalf of the Group Leader and to direct aspects of a research programme under own initiative (with guidance from the Group Leader), helping to bridge activities between the two sites, and to:

- (i) be involved in running independent research projects including supervising teams of scientists (including postgraduate research students/projects);
- (ii) build collaborations with academics and scientists in other departments and institutions in order to maximise the research output of the Group;
- (iii) contribute to the writing of high-impact papers and competitive grants.

BACKGROUND

The Cancer Dynamics Laboratory (Turajlic) studies the evolutionary principles that shape cancer – from its genomic origins to its interactions with the immune system and response to therapy. Our research integrates patient data, experimental models,

and computational approaches to understand how tumours evolve, evade, and respond, with the ultimate goal of improving cancer outcomes.

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DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

To direct aspects of the research programme under own initiative, with some guidance from the Group Leader and:

- Support the Cancer Dynamics Group to initiate and develop research strategy in line with overall goals set out by the Group Leader/Director
- Provide project oversight and guide intellectual direction of projects within the Cancer Dynamics Group and mentor academic trainees within the group. To design and execute experiments appropriate for the project. As appropriate, to work independently and as part of the team to ensure successful completion of project(s).
- To use established procedures and establish new approaches where appropriate.
- To supervise postdoctoral scientists, graduate students, scientific officers, visiting scientists and others as necessary.
- Provide specialist technical training and advice to support projects within the Cancer Dynamics Group.
- Responsible for project managing the grant process including the coordination and planning and diarising time with the Group Leader to meet submission deadlines.
- Liaising with the Institute's finance department to optimise efficiency of ordering and consumables.
- To interact with external companies and representatives according to the requirements of the project, laboratory and the Group Leader.
- To prepare manuscripts for submission to scientific journals. To address referees comments as appropriate.
- To attend the Institute retreat.
- To maintain accurate records of experiments and reagent in laboratory notebooks.
- To ensure all newly generated reagents are recorded and filed in the appropriate location.



- To keep up with the scientific literature.
- To prepare and attend weekly laboratory meetings.
- To present work at the Institute, and at domestic and international meetings.
- Mandatory attendance at Institute seminars.
- To ensure that work conforms to the requirement of COSHH, Codes of Practice, and Local and Institutional Rules.
- To perform other functions consistent with the position, nature of the post and as determined by the Group Leader.

STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE

- Work efficiently, cost-effectively and in a flexible manner.
- To meet objectives within pre-determined timescales.
- Effective communication to be maintained with staff at all levels.
- Strict adherence to protocols and Institute policies.
- To comply with Health & Safety requirements, including having an awareness of personal responsibilities to maintain a safe working environment.
- To contribute to the University's agenda for social responsibility, including sustainability.
- To maintain confidentiality of information in line with data protection requirements and University policy.
- Familiarise themselves with the University's Equality and Diversity policies and to actively support these wherever possible.
- Be a team player.
- To strive to accomplish high quality of work.
- To complete a security screening as and when required.
- The post holder may be offered Hepatitis B immunisation by a vaccination programme; although this is dependent on the nature of the work and the availability of vaccine.



PERSON SPECIFICATION

The person specification should set out the qualifications, experience, skills, knowledge, personal attributes, competencies and other requirements which the post holder requires to perform the job to a satisfactory level.

Job Title: Associate Scientist

	<u>ESSENTIAL</u> The qualities without which a post holder could not be appointed	<u>DESIRABLE</u> Extra qualities which can be used to choose between candidates who meet all the essential criteria	<u>METHOD OF ASSESSMENT</u>
QUALIFICATIONS	• PhD in cancer biology, biochemistry or a relevant discipline		Certificates /Documentation and CV
EXPERIENCE	• Extensive postdoctoral experience • Relevant experience gained in a cancer research laboratory • Demonstrated ability to generate top quality publication(s) • Preparation of manuscripts for publication • Demonstrable experience in defining and solving research questions in relation to the project • Evidence of development of technologies and solving of technical challenges • Mentoring academic trainees including graduate students and/or Postdoctoral researchers • Line management experience	• Experience of supervision of graduate students • Experience of working in multidisciplinary teams • Experience of more than one research discipline • Experience of speaking at domestic/international meetings and conferences • Familiarity of the work of Cancer Research UK • Experience of successfully managing own projects.	Interview, CV and references



SKILLS	• Advanced skills in Molecular Biology • Ability to work independently • Ability to manage small teams/independent lab projects • Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to communicate effectively, in writing and verbally, with a wide variety of senior professional and scientific staff • Accurate comprehensive record- keeping, attention to detail • Computer literate, familiarity with MS office package • Excellent presentation skills • Proven ability to handle confidential data appropriately • High levels of organisational & time management skills and the ability to prioritise and handle competing demands and work to deadlines with limited supervision	• To set goals, respond to challenges and take initiative • Ability to inspire and motivate colleagues and any students and technicians with whom interactions are necessary	Interview, CV and references
KNOWLEDGE	• Specialist knowledge of the essentials of biochemistry, molecular biology, genetics, proteomics or cell biology • Knowledge of cancer biology • Knowledge of the essentials of biochemistry, molecular biology, genetics, proteomics or cell biology • Knowledge of 'Health & Safety at work' requirements	• Ability to assimilate information from a variety of sources in order to innovate new research ideas that are beneficial to the research output of the group • Knowledge of the principles of good clinical laboratory practice (GCLP) and good clinical practice (GCP). • Knowledge of external funding sources	Interview, CV and references



		• Thorough understanding and working knowledge of the Animal Scientific procedures Act 1986.	
OTHER	• Willingness to travel • Willing to work at The Francis Crick Institute premises as project requires (ad hoc) • Self-motivated • Meticulous • Interactive • Organised • Ability to work to strict deadlines • Ability to work well within a team framework as well as on an individual project • Technically focused • Willingness to learn new experimental techniques • Willingness to implement new management approaches • To show commitment to equality and fairness and integrity in dealing with others • To be willing to work across organisational boundaries • To seek new knowledge and share ideas • To be open and responsive to change and innovation		Interview, CV and references



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THE CITY OF MANCHESTER AND THE REGION

Manchester is one of the great European cities and the Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute is located a short distance from the city centre and is serviced by regular public transport to the city centre. The city's architecture represents one of the high points of Victorian achievement. The modern city is a major centre of banking, commerce and manufacturing.



It is consistently ranked as the best liveable city in the UK by the Economist Intelligence Unit. In 2021, Manchester was ranked in the top 3 of the TimeOut World's Best Cities list with the comment, "the friendliest city with the best community spirit and top-notch nightlife including its Gay Village and Northern Quarter in the heart of the city." It has a highly cosmopolitan atmosphere, and its cultural life is internationally renowned.

Manchester offers extensive provision for research. Library facilities include the John Rylands University Library (the major library in the North West and the third largest in the country) and the Manchester Central Reference Library.



Housing is varied, plentiful and the price ranges can start moderately priced and are as varied as the requirements. Schooling ranges from world-famous private schools to excellent sixth-form colleges and comprehensives.

Manchester is well served by a major international airport, with direct scheduled flights to many destinations in Europe as well as North America and Asia. Some of the most beautiful countryside in Europe is just short of an hour's drive from the Institute in the Peak District National Park, while the Lake District and Snowdonia in Wales are also within easy reach.





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Manchester Piccadilly railway station has been refurbished and is served by inter-city and other train services – with a direct link to Manchester Airport. The network of Metrolink tram services offers an alternative mode of public transport from certain parts of the conurbation and includes connections near to the Institute.

There are three outstanding professional theatre companies, the halls of the Hallé and BBC Philharmonic orchestras, the Cornerhouse as well as other cinemas, and Europe's fastest-growing Chinatown.

Amongst the developments enriching the area's cultural life have been the opening of the Lowry Centre and Media City at Salford Quays; the opening of the Bridgewater Concert Hall; the refurbishment of the City Art Gallery; the opening of Urbis in the centre of Manchester and of the Imperial War Museum North, designed by Daniel Libeskind, in Trafford.



Trafford, specifically Old Trafford, is known internationally for sport, it is a venue for Test cricket and the home of Manchester United FC. The Commonwealth Games were held in Manchester in 2002 and were highly acclaimed. The Commonwealth Stadium became the home of Manchester City FC in 2003.





OUR BENEFITS PACKAGE

Facilities and General Discounts

We have a wide range of fantastic facilities for you including coffee shops, cafes, and restaurants in various buildings on Oxford Road, library, museum, art gallery, theatre (providing music and drama) and the world-famous radio telescope at Jodrell Bank. You can attend a varied programme of events at these, many of which are free to staff. Staff also have a plethora of discounts available to them on fitness, entertainment, restaurants, hotels, supermarkets, and online retailers.

Health and Fitness

We have a fantastic range of sports and fitness programmes across three of the best sports facilities in the city of Manchester. Each of our facilities provides something for everyone and are in convenient locations across Oxford Road, Fallowfield and all the way into the City Centre. Staff have a discounted membership to these facilities.

Wellbeing

The Institute is committed to supporting staff wellbeing and have a range of resources available. This includes a free 24/7 helpline through our Employee Assistance Programme which allows staff to talk in confidence to trained counsellors and advisers on areas like emotional, physical, and mental health.

The University's counselling service offers confidential help with any personal issues affecting work, self-esteem, relationships, sexuality, mental health and general well-being. It is accessible to all staff and is part of a wider network of help and support; and can advise on where else to seek help and make referrals to NHS mental health services.

The University's Occupational Health service provides confidential services to protect the health of staff and ensures that all health issues are effectively managed. Additionally, the Institute has wellbeing working groups and employee champions to support staff.

We offer a generous annual leave allowance of 32 days per year, (pro rata for part time staff) plus bank holidays for England. The Institute gifts an additional day's leave on Christmas Eve.

Travel

The Institute is committed to reducing its environmental impact and actively supports and promotes travel by sustainable means. We work closely with The Christie NHS Foundation Hospital to have a green travel plan that aims to provide a package of measures that increase the travel options available to staff. These options include as a Cycle to Work Scheme and annual interest-free travel loans with Northern Rail, Stagecoach and Metrolink.



Family Friendly Support

If you have childcare responsibilities the Institute can provide you with a range of support to assist you in balancing your work and home life commitments. Information is available on the government's Tax Free Childcare Scheme and The University's Workplace Nursery Scheme. We also have a range of family friendly policies and staff have the right to request to work flexibly.

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI)

The Institute is committed to creating an environment where diversity is celebrated and everyone is treated fairly, regardless of gender, gender identity, disability, ethnicity, religion or belief, sexual orientation, marital or transgender status, age, or nationality. The Institute has an EDI committee which provides leadership, drive and strategic direction on equality, diversity, and inclusion across all parts of the Institute. The committee will seek to promote cultural change and ensure that the EDI action plan is embedded across all functions of the Institute.

Personal Development

Whether you are a research scientist, technical or operational staff, you will receive excellent on the job training and an opportunity to share skills experience and expertise in a collaborative environment. The Institute has a range of training available for support and professional development.

Disability

The Institute is committed to providing a positive working environment free from discrimination, harassment, or victimisation due to a disability where all staff are treated with respect and dignity. The Institute has access to a Disability Advisory and Support Service (DASS) which has a dedicated disability adviser for staff to provide advice, guidance and support about a range of practical adjustments in the workplace.

Pension

We have two generous pension schemes to provide benefits for you and your family. For more details, please contact the HR department.





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ADDITIONAL RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION PARTICULARS

Shortlisted Candidates:

1. We will reimburse reasonable travel expenses. You need to retain all your receipts, as you will need to submit these with your expense claim form. This form will be given to you when you attend your interview.
2. If candidates require accommodation the Institute can arrange this for you. Please notify the HR Department as soon as possible so that this can be arranged on:
Tel: +44 (0) 161 306 9752 or
Email: jobs@cruk.manchester.ac.uk.

*Please note that reimbursement for accommodation may **not** apply.*

3. If candidates have any additional support needs to enable them to attend an interview, they will be able to request/discuss this with the HR department when arranging the interview.
4. Shortlisted candidates may be expected to complete a presentation as part of the selection process. Information regarding the duration and title of the presentation will be provided in the invitation to interview correspondence. We supply both laptop and projector for presentations.
5. All dates and times stated in correspondence from the Institute refer to UK GMT (Greenwich Mean Time).
6. Candidates need to bring along their passport to interview, a copy of which will be taken for our records, when you visit the Institute. If candidates have difficulty in producing their passport, please contact the HR Department prior to the interview on:
Tel: +44 (0) 161 306 9752 or
Email: jobs@cruk.manchester.ac.uk
7. MS Teams or **Zoom interview with or without presentation:**
Instances may arise where we propose to hold an online interview as a (first stage) selection process. If this is the preferred method of interview, this will be stated on your invite to interview email. You will be provided with a link and



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password to attend the interview at a specified time on a specified date. This link will redirect you to your MS Teams/Zoom interview. 24 hours prior to interview we will require:

- A contact telephone number emailed to jobs@cruk.manchester.ac.uk along with a scanned copy of passport for ID purposes
- Where applicable, a copy of your presentation emailed to: jobs@cruk.manchester.ac.uk

Please note:

You do not have to have a Zoom account to attend a Zoom interview. You will be prompted to download the software, once you have clicked on the link that you have been provided. You do, however, need to have a working microphone and camera connected to your electronic device, for this interview to go ahead.

The criteria will be consistent with all other candidates.





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STANDARD CRUK MANCHESTER INSTITUTE TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The following is a basic summary of the standard terms and conditions applicable to the post you have applied for:

- The post of Associate Scientist is on a Cancer Research UK pay scale. It's on an CRUK MI5 grade with a salary range of £45,000 – £60,000 (dependent upon experience) per annum.
- Your employment will be with The University of Manchester appointed under the Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute terms and conditions.
- Salary is paid monthly on the penultimate last working day of the month.
- There are 32 days holiday per year plus Bank Holidays for England.
- Duration of contract: non-time limited.
- Working hours are 35 hours per week.
- There is a probationary period attached to this post of 6 months. It's standard for many organisations now and consists of two 3-monthly reviews with your line manager.
- You are eligible to join USS (<https://www.uss.co.uk/>) pension scheme.
- You may be eligible to claim relocation expenses in accordance with the criteria listed in the Institute's Relocation Policy.
- Any offer made by the Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute would require the successful candidate to undergo a medical clearance. This is arranged with Occupational Health department at The University of Manchester prior to starting employment and consists of a basic medical. This is to address and gain clearance for any potential hazards identified for the role on offer.
- Offer is subject to receipt of satisfactory references and proof of your highest qualification.
- Offer is subject to documented evidence of your right to work in the UK under the Home Office UK Border Agency Regulations.



- Overseas candidates should determine, when applying for the position, the likelihood of obtaining a Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS) for the post by assessing their own circumstances against the criteria specified on the [gov.uk website](https://www.gov.uk)
- Standard Occupation Classification (SOC) for this role is: 2119.
- Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) Research subject code: CAH02-05-03 Biomedical research (non-specific).
- Successful overseas candidates may be eligible to claim reimbursement of expenses to cover their visa and National Health Surcharge costs, if required.

Please note reimbursement does not extend to include family members, although a loan scheme is available.

- The successful candidate is required to complete a Rehabilitation of Offenders/Criminal Records declaration form at the offer stage of the process. *Please note a criminal record will not necessarily be a bar to obtaining a position.*
- The Institute is promoting a green travel plan and there are staff benefits promoting this including a cycle to work scheme and the use of public transport. There are strong links to bus routes and trains to all CRUK Manchester Institute locations. More information about this can be found on our 'Our Benefits Package' page or by contacting the HR Department.

Please note there are car parking restrictions imposed around these sites.



**DON'T FORGET TO FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL
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#LifeAtCRUKMI



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**THANK
YOU!**



Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute is a Research Institute within
The University of Manchester and is core funded by Cancer Research UK