

Cancer Postgraduate Mentor

Salary: £11.68 per hour (Grade 1 spinal point 1)

Hours: Hours vary, up to 2 hours per month with additional summer placement hosting

Duration: Casual staff, flexible contract between April – October 2024

Location: Oglesby Cancer Research Centre, Manchester

Responsible to: Georgina Binnie-Wright

Enquiries: georgina.binnie@manchester.ac.uk

Job Description

Are you a cancer-focused PhD student looking to mentor underrepresented postgraduate research students? We're looking to recruit up to four Cancer Postgraduate Mentors to mentor undergraduate students at the University of Manchester, who are interested in applying for a cancer-focused PhD in the future.

You'll have the opportunity to inspire the next generation of cancer researchers. You will help support your mentee to gain research experience and provide them with career advice. Your mentee will have the chance to visit your lab group* to gain hands-on experience of scientific research.

We will provide training before you start your role and you'll have regular contact with our Senior Cancer Postgraduate Mentors and Postgraduate Programme Manager.

Our mentorship scheme aims to make sure that more diverse researchers are attracted and recruited to cancer postgraduate research programmes. We particularly welcome applications from students from the following groups:

- Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic background;
- Have ever been in local authority care;
- Have ever been in receipt of free school meals;
- First in family to attend higher education.

This role is flexible and hours will vary throughout the year but we expect a contribution of up to 2 hours per month's mentorship (in-person and/or virtually) + hosting your mentee on a paid hourly lab visit of up to 2 days during the summer vacation (date to be agreed by mentor-mentee).

*If your PhD project lab is unable to host a student then you can still apply to the mentoring scheme. We will look to host your mentee with a similar lab group whilst you still provide day-to-day support.

Key Responsibilities and Opportunities available include:

- Identifying opportunities for your mentee to develop their academic CV, e.g. through signposting them to conferences or talks;
- Being empathetic and willing to share your own journey;
- Helping your mentee to set short and long-term career goals;
- Providing guidance on cancer-specific PhD applications and interviews;

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- To contribute to the development of the mentorship scheme by suggesting new ideas for engagement;
- To complete compulsory training as required.

Benefits of being a Cancer Postgraduate Mentor:

- Inspire the next generation of postgraduate researchers;
- Gain skills in leadership, mentoring and communicating with other people.

How to apply

Please complete our [short application form](#) to apply for this role.

The deadline to apply for this role is 12:00 (GMT) on Monday 4th March 2024.

If your application is successful, we'll invite you to have an informal chat and find out more about you and assess your suitability for this programme. This is also a chance for you to find out more about us, learn how the mentoring scheme works and ask us any questions you may have.

We aim to inform everyone of the outcome of their application a week after the deadline. Please note, if we receive a sufficient number of applications we may close the job advert earlier than advertised.

Person Specification

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of applying for a PhD • Experience of undertaking a PhD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of mentoring others
Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of the MCRC training landscape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of key issues affecting access and inequity in postgraduate research
Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent listening and communication skills • Ability to establish strong working relationships with a range of individuals • Approachable and personable • Empathetic • Self-motivated and self-reliant • Ability to ensure observation of service procedures, for example maintaining confidentiality 	

Cancer Postgraduate Mentor FAQs

Who can apply?

You must be a current MB-PhD or Non-Clinical PhD student at the Manchester Cancer Research Centre or Cancer Research UK Manchester Centre to apply. Postdocs and Clinical Research Training Fellows are also eligible to apply but will be paid in [vouchers](#) due to already being full-time University of Manchester employees.

Can international students apply?

Yes, we welcome applications from all students. However, you will need to provide evidence of your right to work in the UK and check any limitations on the number of hours you are allowed to work with your UK visa.

How will I be paid?

You will join The University of Manchester payroll as a casual employee and submit timesheets of the hours you work each month to get paid. The pay for casual employees is £11.68 per hour. You will accrue 1 hours' annual leave for each 8.3 hours worked, which will be paid at the end of the job role. Hours are variable and meeting dates will be defined by yourself and your mentee.

Postdocs and Clinical Research Training Fellows will be paid in [vouchers](#) equivalent to the hourly paid job rate due to already being full-time University of Manchester employees.

Will training be available?

Before starting your role, you will attend a training workshop where we will cover mentorship guidelines and requirements.

What support will I get?

You'll be expected to feedback monthly to the MCRC Training Office on your participation in the scheme in order to ensure that you are well-supported and that we can continue to define and enhance the mentoring scheme.

Version Control		
Version	Date	Amendments made (if applicable)
1	24.02.05	JD produced
2	24.02.26	Amendments to postdoc/CRTF eligibility