Work Experience Job Description

BRAND LAB

About the Gurdon Institute

The Gurdon Institute is a world-leading centre for research into the biology of development and how normal growth and maintenance can go wrong in diseases such as cancer. Many of our scientists have made pioneering contributions to the fields of basic cell biology, cellular reprogramming, epigenetics, and DNA repair.

Dates of Placement

9 July – 13 July

Placement Description

Area of the Gurdon

Laboratory Research

General topic area

Neural stem cell quiescence and reactivation, neuronal differentiation

About the team

Our group investigates the genetic networks that regulate neural stem cell behaviour. Neural stem cells in the adult brain exist primarily in a quiescent state but can be reactivated in response to changing physiological conditions, such as nutrition or injury. How stem cells regulate this process is key to their ability to repair tissues and avoid tumour initiation.

Main model(s) used

Drosophila (fruit flies)

What will you do?

Spend 3 hours in the lab each day, learning and practicing techniques such as fly husbandry, molecular biology, immunohistochemistry, confocal microscopy and imaging.

You will attend four, 2-hour interactive workshops on topics such as confocal microscopy. These workshops will be led by scientists and specialists in the field.

Additionally, you will read and analyse a research paper and you will present it and your experiences to other students. You will also have the opportunity to network with PhD students and scientists, talk to them about their jobs and lives and find out how research is done in the lab.
About the successful student

We expect all students to be punctual, responsible, reliable, curious, and willing to listen to advice and act on feedback.

You must also be available for all of the days during the placement week.

Ideally interested in: Biology

Key skills include: Attention to detail, proactive, inquisitive, enthusiastic.

What you will need

You will need to bring

- Closed-toed shoes
- A positive attitude

We will provide

- Lab coat
- Protective eyewear
- Gloves
- Computer access
- Free lunch at the Institute (up to £10 per day)
- Transportation reimbursement (receipts required, up to £50 per week)

Questions?

If you have any questions about this job description, the work experience programme or the application process, please reach out to Naomi at workexperience@gurdon.cam.ac.uk