Work Experience Job Description

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 DNA Repair

About the team

Our group is mainly interested in how cells respond to and repair damage to their DNA. Every day our cells are constantly being exposed to agents that damage our DNA (e.g. the UV in sunlight, chemicals in food, cigarette smoke) and if left unrepaired, this damage can lead to the accumulation of mutations in our genes that could ultimately lead to the development of cancer. Our research is aimed at identifying proteins involved in the DNA damage response (DDR) and how these proteins function in cells to repair damaged DNA.

Main model(s) used Mammalian tissue culture cells (human and mouse), yeast

What will you do?

Spend 3 hours in the lab each day, learning and practicing techniques such as cell culture and western blotting.

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

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