Work Experience Job Description

GURDON 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

8-12 July

Placement Description

Area of the Gurdon Laboratory Research

General topic area Programming and reprogramming of cell fate

About the team

Our group is primarily interested in understanding how the fate of a cell is established during embryonic development. We want to understand what instructions are delivered by sperm to the embryo in order to regulate the formation of specialised cells. We also want to understand how the specialised cell state is established. We investigate these mechanisms by monitoring the development of embryos obtained by fertilisation as well as cloned embryos.

Main model(s) used Xenopus Laevis (South African clawed frog)

What will you do?

Spend 3 hours in the lab each day, learning and practicing techniques such as handling frogs eggs and oocytes (sorting/injecting/processing) as well as monitoring embryos development.

You will attend four, two-hour interactive workshops to help you develop scientific knowledge and practical skills.

Additionally, you will create and deliver a scientific presentation to other work experience students.
You will also have the opportunity to network with post-graduate 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 and/or chemistry

**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](mailto:workexperience@gurdon.cam.ac.uk)