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

16 July – 20 July

Placement Description

Area of the Gurdon Laboratory Research

General topic area Eukaryotic DNA regulation

About the team Faithful inheritance of the genome from mother to daughter cell requires that it is replicated accurately, in its entirety, exactly once. Failure to perfectly replicate the genome is a likely source of cell death and the mutations that are the root cause of cancer. As a result, replication is strictly regulated within the cell cycle, in the presence of DNA damage and during development and it is these levels of regulation that form the focus of our research interests.

Main model(s) used Saccharomyces cerevisiae (Baker’s yeast), Caenorhabditis elegans (nematode worm)

What will you do? Spend 3 hours in the lab each day, learning how to grow and handle strains, undertaking basic cell cycle experiments, analysing results.

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, interested, inquisitive

What you will need

You will need to bring

- Closed-toed shoes
- Sensible clothing and a hair band if necessary

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