**PERSON SPECIFICATION (PS)**

This form lists the essential and desirable requirements needed in order to do the job.

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| **Job Title:**  | Post-doctoral research associate (PDRA) | **Job ref no:** | PPS-0092-25 |
| **Grade:**  | 6 | **Department:** | PPS |
| **Accountable to:**  | Dr Ellen Knuepfer | **Responsible for:** | Research project |
| **PS created by/ or reviewed by:** | Dr Ellen Knuepfer | **Date PS created/ reviewed:** | 16.04.2025 |

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| **Evidence** |
| **Competency** | **Essential** | **Desirable** |
| **Knowledge & Experience** | Awarded PhD in biological or biomedical sciences biochemistry, microbiology, or a closely related subject.Extensive practical experience in tissue culture of apicomplexan parasites.Extensive practical experience in generating transgenic apicomplexan parasites.Practical experience in molecular biology techniques.Practical experience in fluorescence microscopy.Practical experience in protein biochemistry tools, including SDS-PAGE gels and immunoblots. | Awarded PhD or postdoctoral training experience in field of molecular parasitology. Extensive practical experience in tissue culture of *Plasmodium* (blood-stages).Extensive practical experience in generating transgenic *Plasmodium* lines (blood stages).Practical experience with CRISPR/Cas9 tools, vector, and conditional gene knockout generation.Practical experience with real time imaging and/or ultra expansion microscopy.Practical knowledge in assessing protein-protein interactions, conducting co-immunoprecipitation experiments and recombinant protein expression & purification.Practical experience using flow cytometry. |
| **Analysis & Research** | Outstanding analytical skills and proficient use of Excel, GraphPad Prism, Flowjo or equivalent software packages.Proficiency in statistical data analysis.Experience in writing primary research publications.Literacy of software packages including Microsoft Word, Powerpoint, Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop or equivalent.Established record of research outputs in form of manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals. Data analysis using bioinformatic tools- Alphafold and other protein structure prediction and visualisation software packages. | Familiar use of image analysis software packages such as Nikon Elements, Image J, FIJI, Image Pro, Snapgene or similar.Established record of research outputs in form of conference presentations.Familiarity with bioinformatic tools, such as epitope, signal peptide, secondary protein fold and protein parameter prediction software tools.  |
| **Planning & Organisation** | Conducting and leading your own research project.Manage your own time effectively and productively without close supervision.Exceptional organisational skills, ability to prioritise and meeting of deadlines.Meticulous record keeping (written and logistical) including lab books and resource organisation.Ability to follow SOPs, gather data and maintain lab standards according to Good Research Practice and local H&S rules. | Organisation of regular result update meetings with collaborators, in person or online.Ability to manage research budgets.Organising research support staff to help with lab management. |
| **Teamwork & Motivation** | Ability to work independently, to be initiative-taking and at the same time ability to motivate others and work effectively in a team. Passion for undertaking high quality research in infection biology.Be a reliable, friendly, inclusive, helpful and adaptable team member.Willingness to work flexibly if necessary, including out-of-hours. | Experience and/or willingness in supervising and mentoring students and/or research support staff.Initiative-taking engagement with the lab group and wider research teams to support more productive, result-orientated working. |
| **Communication** | Excellent oral and written communication and interpersonal skills to facilitate cohesive working with all members of the lab, the collaborative research group, students and research support staff.Excellent time keeping skills for most effective communication. | Experience with outreach activities, including show casting complex research topics to lay audiences.Timely and eloquent science communication on social media. |
| **Work Environment** | Flexibility and willingness to travel if necessary to undertake research project/learn new techniques in collaborator labs within the UK and/or Europe.Participation in team and wider research community group activities (potentially out of hours) for maintaining positive research/work environment.  | Engage with Researcher Association at the RVC to help shape the research environment within the RVC for young researchers.Engagement with lab sustainability initiatives. |