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Technician in Protein Biochemistry and Molecular Glue Discovery

Department/Division/Faculty:	Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Natural Sciences
Campus/Location:	White City Campus
Job Family/Level:	Professional Services, Level 3b (Salary scales)
Responsible to:	Professor Edward Tate
Line management for:	N/A
Key working Relationships (Internal):	Professor Edward Tate (GSK Chair of Chemical Biology, Imperial College & Francis Crick Institute)
Key Working Relationships (External):	N/A
Contract type:	Full time, fixed term, for up to 24 months in the first instance.

Purpose of the Post

We are seeking a talented technician to join the team in the group of Professor Ed Tate at Imperial College London. This role will support the production and characterisation of recombinant proteins for molecular glue discovery. The position is available full time, starting in January 2027 (or as soon as possible thereafter, with flexibility to start earlier).

Molecular glues are an emerging class of small molecules which induce or stabilise protein-protein interactions, creating new opportunities to modulate biological processes and tackle 'undruggable' targets through induced proximity. Despite growing interest in the field, there remain limited approaches for the systematic discovery of molecular glues. As a result, there is a need for scalable and generalisable molecular glue discovery platforms that enable target proteins and compound libraries to be screened across the proteome.

To support these efforts, we are establishing workflows for the production and characterisation of recombinant proteins for use in proteomic, biochemical, biophysical and cell-based assays. The post holder will play a central role in generating high-quality protein reagents and supporting downstream studies that underpin molecular glue discovery.

What you would be doing:

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Your role will focus on the expression, purification and characterisation of recombinant proteins using mammalian cell culture to support molecular glue discovery projects. You may also contribute to the development of biochemical or biophysical assays using these proteins. You will be contributing to a dynamic and ambitious research programme, working in a multidisciplinary team spanning chemical biology, proteomics and medicinal chemistry. In addition to these core activities, you will support the day-to-day running of the laboratory. This includes maintaining equipment, purchasing and organising consumables, disposal of biohazard and chemical waste, participating in laboratory duty rotas, and providing introductory training for new users.

The Tate group is culturally diverse and highly multidisciplinary, with project teams encompassing scientists at all levels of experience and from a variety of backgrounds (chemical biology, cell biology, proteomics, cancer biology, drug discovery, etc.). Technicians are expected to engage in the various projects across the Tate group and offer support on an ad-hoc basis as required outside of their core projects. We are looking for candidates who can thrive in this dynamic and creative environment and take optimal advantage of the many training opportunities it provides.

Key Responsibilities

Main Duties:

Research:

- Optimise, conduct, and troubleshoot recombinant protein production using mammalian cell expression systems.
- Develop, implement, and monitor quality control procedures for recombinant protein production.
- Manage, analyse, and interpret experimental data to support key project decisions.
- Provide input and expert advice on subsequent and bespoke experimental design.
- Contribute to the preparation of funder reports and publications.
- Organise and manage sample submission and storage.
- Organise regular team meetings, monitor project progress, and identify opportunities to optimise workflows.
- Provide technical expertise and guidance to support group members with protein production and characterisation
- Optimise resource allocation and effective decision making in support of research.
- Provide training and support to postdocs, PhD students, and technicians in mammalian protein production and quality control.

Laboratory Operations:

- Manage day-to-day laboratory operations, ensuring smooth workflows, good laboratory practice, and adherence to sterile techniques where necessary.

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- Ensure proper functioning of vital equipment and act as primary point of contact to coordinate routine maintenance and repair of systems such as centrifuges, and thermoshakers.
- Maintain organised stock of consumables, including solvents, cartridges, tips, tubes, and reagents.
- Lead and participate in cleaning of communal working areas.
- Take a lead in ensuring compliance with biosafety regulations, including liaison with safety officers.

Other Responsibilities:

- Organise, compile, and review Standard Operating procedures (SOPs) and lead in the writing of risk assessments.
- Provide training for new lab members in safe working practices.
- Undertake necessary training and professional development.
- Undertake appropriate administration tasks.
- Attend relevant internal and external meetings.
- Attend relevant workshops and conferences as necessary.
- Promote the reputation of the Group, the Department, and the College.

Where Imperial or funder conditions necessitate, you will be required to complete timesheets for your work on projects in a timely manner.

Person Specification

Requirements

Candidates/post holders will be expected to demonstrate the following:

**Essential (E)/
Desirable (D)**

Education

A degree (MRes, MSc and/or BSc) in biochemistry, chemical biology, biotechnology, or a closely related field, or an equivalent level of professional qualifications and experience	E
PhD in biochemistry, chemical biology, chemistry, analytical chemistry, or a closely related field, or an equivalent level of experience	D

Experience

Experience in mammalian cell culture	E
Experience in recombinant protein expression and purification workflows, preferably in mammalian systems	E
Experience in standard protein characterisation techniques, such as SDS-PAGE and Western blotting	E

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Experience with HEK293, Expi293 or related mammalian expression systems	D
Experience using AKTA chromatography systems	D
Experience in cloning, plasmid production, or related molecular biology techniques	D
Experience in biochemical or biophysical assay development, such as surface plasmon resonance (SPR), circular dichroism (CD) or related techniques	D
Experience in approaches for studying protein-protein interactions and ternary complex formation	D
Experience in laboratory management	D
Practical experience of public engagement or involvement in research	D

Knowledge

Knowledge of protein production methods	E
Knowledge of mammalian cell culture and aseptic techniques	E
Knowledge of safe working practices within research labs	E
Knowledge of the molecular glue field	D

Skills & Abilities

Independent capability and creativity in hypothesis generation and experimental design	E
Ability to solve problems using innovative and flexible thinking	E
Ability to work proactively within an agreed programme and to deliver on deadlines	E
Ability to organise and prioritise own work with minimal supervision	E
Ability to design effective and properly controlled experiments independently	E
Ability to conduct a detailed and on-going review of literature	E
Ability to develop and apply new concepts	E
Ability to work as part of a large, multi-disciplinary team in projects	E
Ability to present in large group meetings	E
Creative approach to problem-solving	E
Excellent verbal communication skills, including the ability to communicate the societal impact of your research and the ability to deal with a wide range of people	E
Good written communication skills and the ability to write clearly and succinctly for publication	E
Good computer skills, including word-processing, spreadsheets, slide presentations, Internet, appropriate bioinformatics tools and image processing software	E
Ability to communicate complex information clearly	E

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Ability to apply relevant models, techniques and methods and develop new ones	E
Ability to encourage a productive and proactive research culture in others	E
Willingness to work as part of a team and to be open minded and cooperative	E
Goal-oriented problem solver	E
Commitment to meeting deadlines	E
Commitment to maintaining and enhancing facilities and training others in their use	E
Discipline and regard for confidentiality and security at all times	E
Willingness to undertake any necessary training for the role	E

Further Information

Please note that job descriptions cannot be exhaustive, and the post-holder may be required to undertake other duties, which are broadly in line with the above key responsibilities.

[Our values](#) are at the root of everything we do and everyone in our community is expected to demonstrate Imperial:

- Respect
- Collaboration
- Excellence
- Integrity
- Innovation

Employees are also required to comply with all Imperial policies and regulations.

We are committed to equality of opportunity, to eliminating discrimination and to creating an inclusive working environment for all. We encourage candidates to apply irrespective of age, disability, marriage or civil partnership status, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion and belief, gender reassignment, sex, or sexual orientation. You can read more about our commitment [on our webpages](#).