

Queen Mary
University of London

Job pack

Message from the President and Principal



Thank you for your interest in this role and in Queen Mary University of London. Working at Queen Mary means being part of a unique, world-class global University with a long, proud and distinctive history.

Our founding institutions, the London Hospital Medical College, St Bartholomew's Medical College, Westfield College and Queen Mary College, were founded to provide hope and opportunity for the less privileged and otherwise under-represented.

Today, we remain true to the vision of our founders by continuing to improve lives locally, nationally and internationally through the seamless combination of our world-leading strengths in education and research.

The Queen Mary community – our staff, students and alumni – is the heart and soul of our University. We are proud to provide an inclusive and nurturing environment so that staff and students from all backgrounds can develop, flourish and achieve their full potential.

I look forward to welcoming you to our unique University and working with you to realise our ambitions.

Professor Colin Bailey, President and Principal

qmul.ac.uk

Queen Mary University of London

Our strategy 2030

In 2019, Queen Mary University of London launched a bold new Strategy with the vision to open the doors of opportunity. By 2030, we will be the most inclusive university of its kind, anywhere. We are doing this by building on our existing cultural diversity to create a truly inclusive environment, where students and staff flourish, reach their full potential and are proud to be part of the University. Continuing our long tradition of commitment to public good, we will generate new knowledge, challenge existing knowledge, and engage locally, nationally and internationally to create a better world.

We have five core values that will help us to reach this goal:

We are **inclusive**, supporting talented students and staff regardless of their background, and engaging with our local and global communities.

We are **proud** of the difference we can all make when we work collectively.

We are **ambitious**, fostering innovation and creativity, disrupting conventional thought, and responding with imagination to new opportunities.

We are **collegial**, promoting a strong community through openness, listening, understanding, co-operation and co-creation.

We are **ethical,** acting with the highest standards, and with integrity, in all that we do.

To enable our staff to flourish and to reach their full potential throughout their employment at Queen Mary, we offer a range of benefits:

Staff benefits

- Annual leave – the full-time annual leave annual entitlement is 30 working days (not including bank holidays).
- Season ticket loan scheme
- Pension scheme
- Reward and recognition schemes
- Staff Networks
- Cycle to work scheme
- Qmotion sport fitness centre
- Employee Assistance Programme
- Family friendly policies
- Flexible working practices

Job description

Job details	
Job title	Postdoctoral Research Associate
School/Dept/Institute Centre/Faculty	School of Mathematical Sciences
Reports to	Supervisors
Grade and salary*	Grade 4 (starting at spinal 25) through to Grade 5 (up to point 37) *
Hours per week	Full-Time
Appointment period	Fixed Term
Current location	QMUL, Mile End Campus
Work activity type	Research only

Job context

Ranked joint 7th in the UK for research quality in the 2021 Research Excellence Framework, Queen Mary University of London is a leading research-intensive higher education institution delivering worldclass education and knowledge exchange across the humanities, social sciences, medicine, dentistry, science and engineering.

The School of Mathematical Sciences (SMS) has large and popular undergraduate and graduate programmes and continues to expand its research profile as well as its study programmes across both UG and PGT. Research in SMS is organised into five dedicated Centres: Geometry, Analysis and Gravitation; Combinatorics; Algebra and Number Theory; Data Science, Statistics and Probability; Dynamical Systems, Statistical Physics and Complex Systems; and Mathematical Education.

The School of Physical and Chemical Sciences (SPCS) at Queen Mary University of London is a large, multidisciplinary and research-intensive school within the Faculty of Science and Engineering. While it is built around the core disciplines of Physics, Astronomy, and Chemistry, it also incorporates data science, reflecting a growing emphasis on computational and data-driven approaches across science.

SPCS has a diverse and active community, with over 900 undergraduate students, more than 100 postgraduate taught students, around 115 postgraduate researchers, and approximately 150 academic and professional staff. It fosters a highly collaborative culture, working across faculties and with industry partners and external stakeholders.

SMS and SPCS are primarily based at the Mile End campus, with facilities in the G.O. Jones, J. Priestley and Mathematical Science buildings that include advanced laboratories, workshops, and shared study and social spaces. Teaching is also delivered at the London City Institute of Technology and internationally in partnership with Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications in Hainan, China.

Overall, the Schools offer a supportive and stimulating environment, combining traditional physical and mathematical sciences with modern data science to deliver a broad, industry-relevant education and research portfolio.

The research interests of the members of SMS and SPCS cover a broad range of topics in theoretical physics, with academics including Matt Buican, Masanori Hanada, Biagio Lucini, Rodolfo Russo, Congkao Wen. Our interests are very broad, with a recent focus on generalized symmetries, black hole physics, holography and AdS/CFT, various aspects of Quantum Field Theory (from topological QFT to

lattice QFT), quantum information, and matrix models. The positions will provide the successful candidate with an exceptional opportunity to become part of a highly active research community focused on fertile and vibrant areas of theoretical physics.

Job purpose

To undertake research investigations in collaboration with and under the guidance of the Supervisors in order to realise the objectives and development of the research programme into project “Symmetries and Quantum Fields: Dualities, Algebras and Learning” funded by the STFC Particle Physics Theory Consolidated Grant 2025 (Award UKRI4238 “Amplitudes, Strings and Duality”).

To collaborate in equal measures with academics in both SPCS and SMS funded by this project and bring expertise in several of the following key areas: quantum field theory broadly defined, generalized symmetries, black hole physics, holography and AdS/CFT, field theory in de Sitter space, quantum information, and matrix models.

To collaborate with any co-I funded by this project, in order to realise the objectives and development of the research programme.

Main duties and responsibilities

1. Contribute towards the research project “Symmetries and Quantum Fields: Dualities, Algebras and Learning” funded by the STFC Particle Physics Theory Consolidated Grant 2025 (Award UKRI4238 “Amplitudes, Strings and Duality”) by applying agreed research principles, protocols and assisting in the planning and delivery of the programme of research.

2. Responsible, under the general guidance of Supervisors for undertaking specific research activities relating to the programme of work.

3. Prepare reports of research results for public presentation through seminars and conferences. Contribute to writing papers summarising research findings for publication in peer-reviewed journals (of high international standing where appropriate) and other reports where required.

4. Conduct empirical research as required by the research programme. Make research initiatives and original contributions to the research programme wherever possible, and to contribute freely to the team research environment in a manner conducive to the success of the research programme as a whole.

5. Develop, in collaboration with the Supervisors, such new techniques as may be necessary to achieve the objectives of the research.

6. Collate data and undertake any appropriate analysis of data as requested by the Supervisors.

7. Maintain appropriate databases, keeping accurate written and computerised records and to ensure that these records are stored in a secure place, and to maintain confidentiality of all electronically stored personal data in line with the provisions of the Data Protection Act.

8. Undertake literature and database searches for the research project, and to be able to interpret and present the findings of the literature searches and advise the research teams appropriately regarding potential projects as required by the Supervisors.

9. Work closely with colleagues e.g. Joint Research Management Office, Impact team, to provide assistance with, and ensure delivery of, the administrative aspects of the research activities as required by the needs of the research programme.

10. Keep up to date with subject related and appropriate academic/professional matters, in particular, developments in the specific subject area.

11. Provide oversight/support for, and assist in the supervision of, student projects, as required.

12. The duties of the post outlined above are not exhaustive, and the postholder will be expected to be co-operative and flexible, undertaking such administrative and other duties as may from time to time be reasonably expected of a member of research grade staff in a university.

13. These duties will be subject to review in line with the changing requirements of the School/Institute/University, and with the development needs of the postholder as identified through regular review/appraisal processes.

For appointments at Grade 5 the following additional responsibilities apply:

14. Contribute to writing bids for research grants, by preparing appropriate data, calculating costs and drafting documentation for review.

15. Investigate models and new approaches in order to test and develop them as appropriate in the research programme.

16. Regularly publish own research work in refereed journals, disseminate findings at conferences, and/or exhibit work at other appropriate events.

17. Supervise and lead the work of a team of research assistants, providing appropriate support, coaching, feedback and development opportunities. Ensure all supervision and leadership is in accordance with Queen Mary Values and the principles of equality, diversity and inclusion. Create and maintain a positive and productive working environment for the team.

***Please note that PhD candidates who have not yet received their PhD award, including candidates who have completed their oral exam and are in the process of corrections, will be appointed with a salary within the junior training zone (Grade 4 spinal points 25-26). The salary will increase to the appropriate point upon receipt of a copy of the formal award letter or award certificate.**

The above list of responsibilities is not exhaustive, and the jobholder may be required to undertake other duties commensurate with the level of the role as reasonably requested by their line manager.

This job description accurately reflects the duties and responsibilities of the role at the time the job description was written. These duties and responsibilities may change over time without significantly impacting on the character of the role, the overall level of responsibility, or its grade.

Depending on strategic or operational needs, the jobholder may in the future be required to work for another existing or new organisational unit and/or at a different site within Queen Mary. This may be on a temporary or indefinite basis and may involve a change in line management and / or regularly working at more than one site.

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Person specification

This table lists the essential and desirable requirements needed in order to perform the job effectively. Candidates will be shortlisted based on the extent to which they meet these requirements.

Essential: Requirements without which the job could not be done.
Desirable: Requirements that would enable the candidate to perform the job well.

Qualifications	Essential	Desirable
PhD (or close to completion) or research qualification/experience equivalent to PhD level in the relevant subject area for the research programme	☒	☐
Educated to degree level in a relevant field	☒	☐
Experience/Knowledge		
Relevant knowledge and experience in theoretical physics in areas relevant to the research programme. Appropriate publication record.	☒	☐
Understanding of the research process and knowledge of appropriate research protocols	☒	☐
Experience in planning and delivery of own work allocation, to agreed timescales and quality standards	☒	☐
Experience of collaborative team working to achieve a common goal/objective	☐	☒
Experience of the research environment	☒	☐
Experience in maintaining accurate and up to date records	☒	☐
Experience in report-writing, utilising appropriate styles/approaches to suit the audience	☒	☐
Experience in collating, maintaining and deploying datasets to produce, interpret and present data reports and analysis.	☐	☒
For Grade 5 appointments, demonstrate/evidence the following experience/ability: • Contribute to writing bids for research grants • Investigate models and approaches to test and develop them • Regularly publish research work in refereed journals, disseminate findings at conferences, or exhibit work at other appropriate events • Supervise the work of research assistants	☒	☐
Skills/Abilities		
Effective report-writing, written and verbal communication skills. Able to adapt style/approach appropriately to suit the audience. Effective team working with a collaborative style.	☒	☐



Proven ability to maintain accurate and up to date records	☒	☐
Ability to organise and prioritise own work and organise research within the project timetable	☒	☐
Experience of using Microsoft Office packages (Word, Excel, Outlook and PowerPoint)	☒	☐
Able to identify appropriate solutions from a set of principles and/or prior experience rather than from a specific set of procedures	☒	☐
Able to apply appropriate judgement in a range of non-routine work situations and prioritise appropriately under pressure	☒	☐
Advanced IT, numeracy and analytical skills with a high level of accuracy and attention to detail	☒	☐
Other		
Willingness to work flexibly in order to achieve the demands of the research programme	☒	☐
Self-motivated and able to work without close supervision	☒	☐
Organised, methodical, able to use own initiative when appropriate	☒	☐
*The ability to meet UK 'right to work' requirements.	☒	☐

* The University has a legal responsibility to ensure that all potential employees can provide documentary evidence of their legal right to work in the UK prior to commencing employment.

Visa Sponsorship

For those who do not have a right to work in the UK, the University is a UKVI licensed sponsor and is able to issue a Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS) to successful candidates who are offered skilled roles and meet the eligibility criteria. The CoS enables candidates to apply for a Skilled Worker visa. Further information on the Skilled Worker visa can be found via: www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa

Global Talent Visa Route

The Global Talent visa is an alternative route to sponsorship, directly applied for by the applicant. It is open to those wishing to work in the UK and who are a leader or potential leader in the fields of academia or research, arts and culture, and digital technology. Further information on the Global Talent Route can be found via: https://www.gov.uk/global-talent

For additional information on both visa sponsorship and non-sponsorship visa routes, please visit the UK Visas and Immigration website: https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/work-visas

Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS)

Academics and Researchers applying for Skilled Worker visas and Sponsored Researchers applying for Government Authorised Exchange visas who will be undertaking research activities, at PhD level or above, in the one of the ATAS listed subject areas will be required to obtain an ATAS certificate before they can apply for a visa to work in the UK.

Exemptions will exist for nationals from the EEA, Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, Switzerland and USA and those applying for Global Talent Visas. For further information on this, please visit the UK Visas and Immigration website: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/find-out-if-you-require-an-atas-certificate.






EDI Initiatives

Queen Mary is committed to advancing Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). We hold a Silver Institutional Athena SWAN award for advancing gender equality and champion a number of EDI initiatives across the University. We also offer a number of development programmes including Springboard, Aurora and B-MEntor.
We are committed to championing EDI relating to all protected characteristics and other underrepresented and marginalised groups under the Equality Act 2010. We offer 'Introducing Inclusion' training for staff to give them an understanding of EDI related issues and provide them with the tools needed to champion inclusivity and embed best inclusive practice in all the work they do. EDI is built into everything we do at Queen Mary, and is championed through a well-established governance structure. If you are interested in learning more about Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at Queen Mary and how to get involved then please contact hr-equality@qmul.ac.uk.

Flexible Working

Queen Mary is proud of the diversity of its staff and students. We encourage inclusive practices in everything that we do, to ensure that everyone who works here feels valued and enabled to have a positive working experience. We are therefore open to considering applications from candidates wishing to work flexibly, balanced against business need. Our Flexible Working Policy includes examples of some of the flexible working arrangements that could be considered. If you feel that this is something that may be of benefit to you, please do ask.

Family Friendly Policies

Queen Mary recognises the commitments that staff have to their family and the importance of work-life balance. To support this Queen Mary offers a range of family friendly policies with enhanced rates of pay available for family-related leave, following a qualifying period of service

Further Information

Details about the school can be found at:

www.qmul.ac.uk/maths

Informal enquiries should be made to:

Name: Dr Matt Buican and Prof Rodolfo Russo

Email: m.buican@qmul.ac.uk and r.russo@qmul.ac.uk

General Information

Please note that we advertise our salaries on a range to indicate the trajectory of progression that can be made. Appointments are usually made at the start of the salary range. The Queen Mary salary structure includes automatic pay progression within the published grades, subject to service, funding and performance. In addition to this, there are performance related annual pay review schemes in place.

