



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.



The University  
Of Sheffield.  
Neuroscience  
Institute.

**NIHR** | Sheffield Biomedical  
Research Centre

# WittKieffer

CANDIDATE INFORMATION PACK

## SCIENTIFIC RESEARCHER IN DEMENTIA / NEURODEGENERATION

*APPOINTABLE AT LECTURER, SENIOR LECTURER OR PROFESSORIAL LEVEL*

## UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD



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## A WARM WELCOME



### PROFESSOR KOEN LAMBERTS, PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

Dementia is one of the major human and public health challenges facing society today. As a civic university in a region with a high burden of dementia, dementia research is a key priority for the University of Sheffield to improve the health and lives of communities locally and across the world.

We have invested in state-of-the-art facilities, like the UK's 8th and Yorkshire's only PET-MRI system, cutting edge preclinical discovery science, social science, engineering and computing facilities, but investing in people remains the central pillar of our long-term strategy for success in addressing big challenges. The University of Sheffield recognises that the talent and dedication of exceptional individuals working together for a common purpose is what drives innovation and makes Sheffield a remarkable place to work.

In 2019 we created four bold new cross-faculty flagship research institutes to drive collaboration across disciplines and pioneer real world solutions that change people's lives. Two of these, the Healthy Lifespan Institute, and the Neuroscience Institute, bring internationally recognised expertise in medicine, science, engineering, and public health to thriving research portfolios across the multifaceted domains of dementia.

As a world top 100 and leading Russell Group institution, the University of Sheffield embeds academic excellence into partnerships with businesses, industry, the NHS, local government, and the regional community to address pressing issues like dementia. Our strength in collaborating effectively across sectors, commercialising our research and IP, and for public and community engagement, is demonstrated by our top ten percent position in the recent first Knowledge Exchange Framework.

In addition to partnering with technology and the life sciences industry and Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, we have worked with Sheffield City Council to be one of the first Dementia Friendly Cities. Our joint dementia strategy with multiple local stakeholders focuses on improving the quality of life for patients as well as improving prevention, and diagnostic and service delivery. Reciprocal support from the city council is in place for the clinical and non-clinical research community in Sheffield to facilitate opportunities for patient participation and involvement, large collaborative research bids and to quickly adopt innovations to improve care.

South Yorkshire as a region carries a burden of dementia above the national average. Paired with the Dementia Challenge strategy and levelling up agenda, this is an ideal time for future leaders in dementia research to join the University of Sheffield and help to make the UK the best place for people to undertake and benefit from dementia research.

PROFESSOR DAME PAMELA SHAW, DIRECTOR OF THE  
NEUROSCIENCE INSTITUTE, SHEFFIELD INSTITUTE FOR  
TRANSLATIONAL NEUROSCIENCE (SITRAN) AND NIHR  
SHEFFIELD BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH CENTRE



Translational research is growing in Sheffield and achieving major breakthroughs in improving the lives of patients living with neurological disorders. Exciting developments in biomarker discovery, machine learning, and disease stratification, made possible through a culture of cross-disciplinary collaborative working, are improving early diagnosis and treatment options for patients with neurodegenerative disorders, including dementia.

The collaborative environment in Sheffield is supported by extensive research infrastructure. Cutting-edge facilities for multimodal advanced clinical imaging, coupled with world-leading expertise in radiofrequency coil development and a preclinical MRI system make Sheffield one of the best places for translational imaging research. Biobanking for patient samples and the Sheffield Brain Tissue bank which holds over 600 brains donated through the MRC Cognitive Function in Aging Study, support biomarker discovery. One of Europe's largest zebrafish aquaria, a state-of-the-art drug screening facility, bioinformatics core and an in silico medicine institute (INSIGNEO) offer unprecedented opportunities to advance our understanding of the biological basis of dementia, uncover new disease targets and optimise clinical trial design.

Already the first site in the UK to trial genetic therapy for Alzheimer's disease and motor neuron disease, Sheffield is becoming one of the major centres in the UK for advanced therapies for neurological diseases as one of three MRC/LifeArc Gene Therapy Innovation Hubs. The Sheffield Institute for Translational Neuroscience (SITraN) has been central in establishing the translational neuroscience research community in Sheffield, building the underpinning science for the "pull-through" of therapeutic developments, and the evidence base for clinical interventions.

National Institute for Health Research support through the NIHR Sheffield Biomedical Research Centre and Clinical Research Facility support early phase translation, driving innovations from the University of Sheffield into clinical trials and evaluation. With over 100 dedicated researchers pursuing advances across multiple dimensions of dementia, we have a tremendous momentum building to be at leading edge of Dementia Challenge developments.

This is an extraordinary opportunity for a leader in the dementia field to join us and harness the exciting developments in Sheffield to shape the future of dementia research.

# THE ORGANISATION

## THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

The University of Sheffield has roots going back to 1828. Today we are a world top-100 university renowned for the excellence, impact and distinctiveness of our research-led learning and teaching.

We are home to 29,000 of the brightest students and over 8,000 staff from more than 140 countries around the world. Our staff work across 49 academic departments in five Faculties: Arts and Humanities, Engineering, Medicine, Dentistry and Health, Science and Social Science.

The University is in the Sunday Times 100 Best Not-For-Profit Organisations to Work For 2018, a ranking of Britain's happiest and most motivated workforces. Our graduates and former staff include six Nobel Prize winners, an Olympic gold medallist and Britain's first female astronaut.

We're a member of the Russell Group of leading UK research universities. Our research has a real impact on our society and helps enrich our teaching. In the most recent Research Excellence Framework, 99 percent of our research was assessed as world-leading, internationally excellent or internationally recognised. We're top 10 in the Russell Group for research outputs.

We work with other leading universities, governments and multinational companies to tackle the biggest challenges facing the world today, from health innovation to sustainable energy, food production and the global economy.

Our partnerships with companies, including Boeing, Rolls-Royce, Siemens and McLaren, set a new standard for industrial research. Our Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC) has a global reputation for helping companies overcome manufacturing problems and is a model for collaborative research involving universities, academics and industry worldwide.

When the University was founded over a century ago, the people of the city had a clear vision. They wanted a world-class university that would bring the highest standard of teaching and research to Sheffield, powering the economy, addressing social problems and transforming lives.

The vision is now clearer than ever. We want Sheffield to be an international centre of excellence for centuries to come, so we recruit ambitious, creative people from all over the world and we nurture their talent.

[www.sheffield.ac.uk](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk)

## DEMENTIA RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

Existing dementia research in Sheffield spans a spectrum from cell and model studies through to clinical studies, with good collaborations between departments and between experimentalists and clinicians.

Pre-clinical studies include metabolic studies using patient-derived directly reprogrammed stem cells, studies in the neurovascular physiology of dementia using murine models and studies of frontotemporal dementia using Drosophila models.

There is a dementia neuropathology group in SITraN using human autopsy tissue to investigate cellular and transcriptomic changes associated with dementia.

Clinical studies include developing new technologies for early diagnosis of dementia, investigating the use of EEG and various phase I to 3 clinical studies.

Neuroimaging is an important area of investigation, and the new PET-MRI facility will provide new opportunities for development in this area.

There is a memory clinic and there is an NIHR Clinical Research Facility based at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital.

In addition to work within the Neuroscience Institute, the Healthy Lifespan Institute also has a focus on ageing and dementia.

[www.sheffield.ac.uk/dementia/research](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/dementia/research)



## THE SHEFFIELD INSTITUTE FOR TRANSLATIONAL NEUROSCIENCE

The Sheffield Institute for Translational Neuroscience (SITraN) is an international centre of excellence recognised for its groundbreaking work in the fight against neurodegenerative disorders.

Since its opening by Her Majesty the Queen in 2010, SITraN has developed into a leading global facility. We are at the forefront of research and expertise, pioneering new treatments for neurodegenerative diseases and bringing hope to patients and families across the world.

SITraN houses 300 staff and research students in multi-disciplinary teams with state-of-the-art laboratories and equipment to study neurological illness.

The centre is unique in its design to bring clinicians and scientists together to translate discoveries in basic neuroscience into benefits for patients. Together we form a vibrant research community with strong links to local, national and international partners in research.

### Our Vision

The key vision of SITraN is to develop an international centre of excellence for basic through to applied research in neurodegenerative disease to complement the existing partnerships of academic research groups, government and charitable research funding bodies the pharmaceutical industry and the health care sector.

SITraN is an essential development in the fight against neurodegenerative disorders. As yet no single Institution anywhere in the world has developed the necessary critical mass and facilities to exploit the potential of modern neuroscience, the 'post-genome' era, and exciting developments in biomedical therapeutics with specific focus on this devastating group of illnesses.

Centres of excellence for neurodegeneration research across the globe have achieved considerable progress, but none are effectively poised to develop these advances to the full.

The establishment of SITraN in Sheffield offers the opportunity for a coordinated approach to the development and clinical trialling of new therapies based on rational targets of proven preclinical effectiveness.

### Our Potential

SITraN has the potential to make a major impact on the visibility of neurodegenerative diseases in the UK, bring new treatments and new hope to patients and carers in the UK and worldwide, by significantly accelerating the pace of therapeutic development using technologies such as experimental modelling of disease, gene therapy and stem cell biology, gene expression profiling and bioinformatics analysis & modelling of the biological processes.

Since its opening by her Majesty the Queen in 2010, SITraN has grown immensely and developed into a leading global facility which is at the forefront of research and expertise, pioneering new treatments for neurodegenerative diseases and bringing new hope to patients and families across the country. The £18million centre houses state-of-the-art laboratories and equipment, including a clinical database of over 2,500 patients and a vital resource of human brain-bank material.

### Translational Therapy Pipeline

We have developed validated models of neurodegenerative diseases including using patient-derived iNeuron and iAstrocyte phenotypic assays to perform drug screens. Through our state-of-the-art drug screening programme we have identified mitochondrial targeted therapeutics for Alzheimer's disease that we are now progressing through preclinical development with industrial collaborators. Our track record for translation includes orphan drug designation status for an NRF2 activator emerging from our drug screening programme now being taken forwards to clinical evaluation, and for the use of gene replacement therapy in spinal muscular atrophy we developed at the preclinical stage, which has now been licenced for use (zolgensma®).

### Clinical Research Programmes

We are conducting clinical trials for dementia including genetic therapies for Alzheimer's disease and fronto-temporal dementia. We have developed novel biomarkers to track disease progression and show target engagement for neuroprotective therapies using neuroimaging as well as improving diagnostics using a machine learning natural language processing tool.

[sitran.org](http://sitran.org)



## THE NEUROSCIENCE INSTITUTE

The Neuroscience Institute at the University of Sheffield is one of four flagship cross-faculty research institutes launched in 2019 to tackle the biggest global challenges through pioneering real-world solutions.

The institute brings together internationally recognised expertise in medicine, science and engineering to improve the lives of patients and families affected by neurological, sensory and developmental disorders.

Our research will help improve prevention, diagnosis and treatment of a range of neurological disorders, including: Alzheimer's disease, motor neuron disease, Parkinson's disease, stroke, impaired hearing and vision and chronic pain.

The institute supports over 120 neuroscientists and their teams from across the Faculties of Medicine, Science and Engineering at the University of Sheffield. This broad range of interdisciplinary expertise feeds into our three research pillars:

- Translational neuroscience
- Computational and systems neuroscience
- Sensory and developmental neuroscience

Partnerships and connections with the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre and Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust – one of the largest and most successful University hospitals in the UK – makes Sheffield a world-leading translational neuroscience environment.

[www.sheffield.ac.uk/neuroscience-institute](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/neuroscience-institute)

## NIHR SHEFFIELD BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH CENTRE

The NIHR Sheffield Biomedical Research Centre is focused on translational neuroscience for chronic neurological disorders, the UK's only BRC dedicated to Neurology. A research partnership between the University of Sheffield and Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, a tertiary referral centre for patients with neurological disorders, the Sheffield BRC is leading the way in improving treatment and care for people living with neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, dementia and motor neuron disease.

World leading expertise in engineering, advanced imaging, genomics and bioinformatics intersects with neurological research, enhancing disease stratification and innovative trial design and the translation of technological advancements into benefits for patients. The Sheffield BRC supports over 100 clinical studies per year, including early phase experimental medicine, advanced therapy trials, biomarker, device and diagnostic development. Our expertise helps to pull through academic programmes from the University of Sheffield into clinical evaluation for Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia, Lewy body disease and enhances Sheffield's participation in DPUK platform studies and large scale collaborative research programmes.

[www.sheffieldbrc.nihr.ac.uk](http://www.sheffieldbrc.nihr.ac.uk)



# THE POSITION

This is an outstanding opportunity for a senior scientist to join the Department of Neuroscience and make a contribution to the major themes of neurological research at The University of Sheffield. We are seeking an academic to lead and enhance our translational research in the area of dementia/ neurodegeneration. This new post has arisen from a strategic initiative within The University of Sheffield to build on our successful translational neurodegeneration portfolio.

You will integrate into the Department of Neuroscience, which is one of the three constituent departments of The Medical School.

We are seeking a highly motivated person with a track record of conducting high quality translational research in the field of dementia. You should have a track record of securing significant research funding over a number of years and have experience of leading a team and successfully supervising doctoral students. You will be expected to have evidence of academic achievement, for instance in the form of high-quality publications and external grant funding awards and to have undertaken a programme of work leading to a PhD or equivalent. The appointment may be at lecturer, senior lecturer or professorial level.

The post will be supported by excellent facilities for research, office accommodation and access to clinical and academic secretarial support.

## MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

You will make a full and active contribution to the principles of the 'Sheffield Academic'. These include the achievement of excellence in applied teaching and research, and scholarly pursuits to make a genuine difference in the subject area and to the University's achievements as a whole. Further information on the underpinning values of the Sheffield Academic can be found at: [www.shef.ac.uk/hr/sheffieldacademic](http://www.shef.ac.uk/hr/sheffieldacademic).

You will contribute fully as teacher, researcher and leader, in fulfilment of the ideals of the 'Sheffield Academic' ([www.shef.ac.uk/hr/sheffieldacademic/statement.html](http://www.shef.ac.uk/hr/sheffieldacademic/statement.html)).

Excellent research facilities are available within the University Department of Neuroscience. Junior medical staff are available to support the post-holder and these include NIHR-funded posts at both Academic Clinical Fellow and Clinical Lecturer levels.

### Research

- Lead a dementia research team that conducts innovative and high-quality research and scholarship that is recognised internationally in terms of originality, significance and rigor.
- Disseminate research findings through conference presentations and publications in recognised high-quality/peer-reviewed journals. Ensure research activities align with REF, outputs, impact and environment.
- Develop funding strategies, pursue income generation and secure research grants from national and international competitive funders.
- Contribute to the research profile of SiTraN and the Department and its standing nationally and internationally.
- Contribute to the development of an interdisciplinary strategy for translational research.

### Teaching

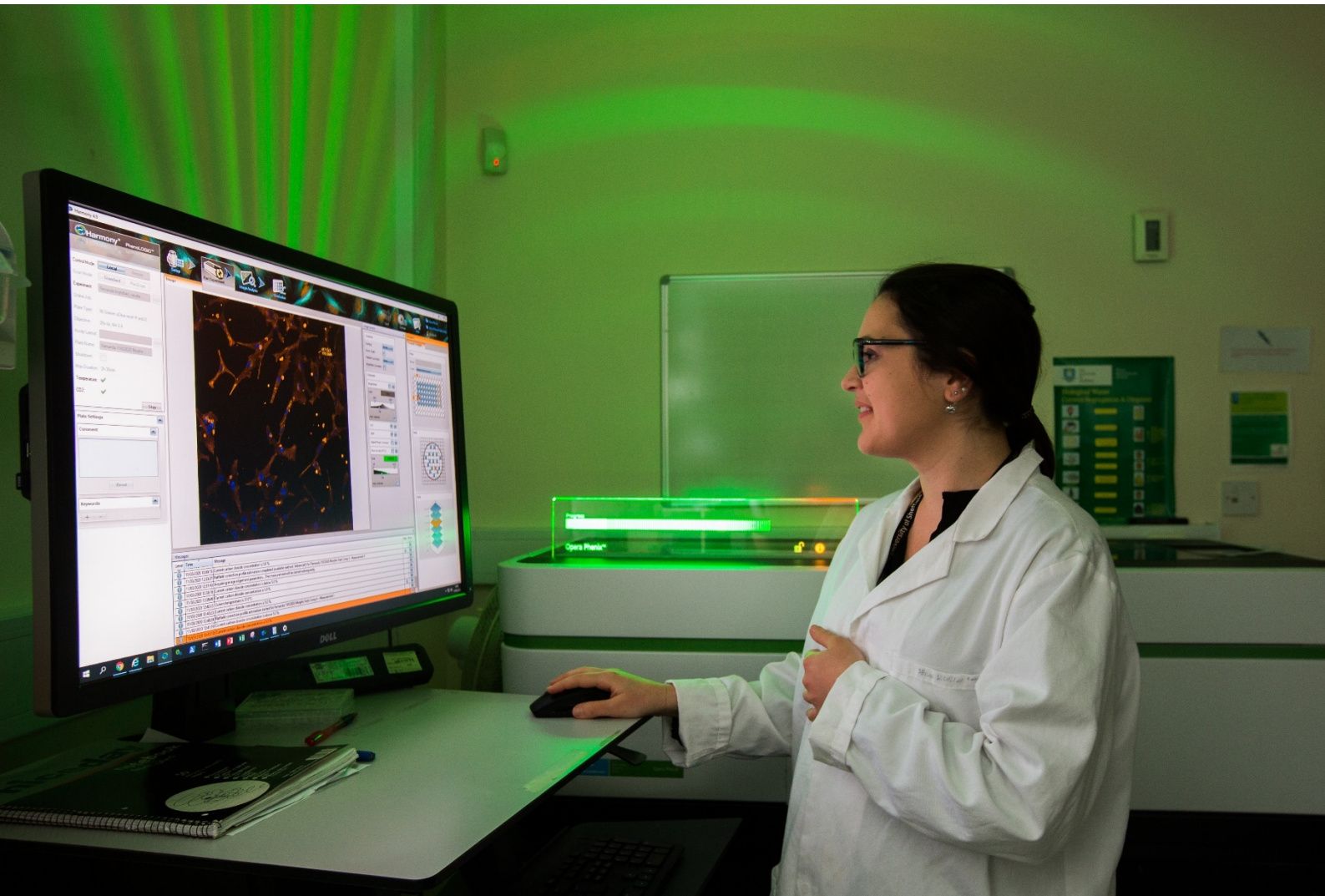
This is a research focused role. However, a small contribution to teaching will be expected.

- Contribute to the postgraduate MSc teaching provided by the Department of Neuroscience.
- Reflect on own teaching design and delivery and implementing ideas for improving performance.
- Carry out pastoral and supervisory roles for undergraduate and postgraduate. If necessary, refer them to the appropriate authority for guidance.

## Leadership and Management

- Provide effective leadership that supports staff development and motivation.
- Increase the external recognition of the Department, Hospital and the University through academic achievement and involvement in external professional activities such as refereeing papers, editing major journals, refereeing research grants, external examining, organising or contributing to international conferences, advising on national and international boards and groups or on policy, or being elected to national or international societies.

You will also be required to undertake any other duties commensurate with the grade of the post.



# THE PERSON

You should provide evidence in your application that you meet the following criteria. We will use a range of selection methods to measure your abilities in these areas including reviewing your online application, seeking references, inviting shortlisted candidates to interview and other forms of assessment action relevant to the post.

## Essential Criteria

- PhD or MD in a relevant area of neurodegeneration
- Significant leadership experience in research
- Proven track record of producing high quality publications
- Experience of teaching and lecturing
- Proven ability to attract substantial research grants
- Experience of formal/informal supervision of students, technical and research staff
- Ability to lead a team
- Experience of formal/informal supervision of students, technical and research staff
- Effective communication skills, both written and verbal, report writing skills and experience of delivering presentations
- Experience of building and developing a team and aligning the day-to-day work and goals of the team with the organisation's strategic vision
- Excellent organisational skills and the ability to manage multiple projects
- Ability to take responsibility for own progress and plan appropriate contingencies
- Experience of developing and maintaining a network of contacts throughout own work area
- Ability to work accurately in order to meet tight deadlines

## Desirable Criteria

- Responsible for maintaining effective collaborations and liaising with collaborators both nationally and abroad
- Ability to motivate high performance in others
- Experience of reviewing individual and team progress and performance
- Ability to assess and organise resources and plan and progress work activities
- Experience of adapting own skills to new circumstances





## THE LOCATION

### SHEFFIELD AS A PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK

Sheffield is a vibrant, friendly, safe city surrounded by some of the most breathtaking countryside in the UK. It offers an excellent quality of life and many students and staff come here and never leave.

Sheffield has been called the UK's greenest city; there are 50 public parks and 170 woodlands within the city boundary. England's fourth-largest city, it has the wealth of facilities you'd expect to find in a major city, yet more than a third of the city lies inside the Peak District National Park. It is the UK's only city with a National Park within its boundary, but it offers much more than beautiful countryside.

Sheffield is geographically diverse, nestled in a natural amphitheatre created by seven hills, and fed by five rivers. This diversity has given rise to an exceptional range of activities available, from walking or climbing in the Peak District to taking a boat ride along one of Sheffield's canals.

The city of Sheffield contains an abundance of entertainment and cultural activities including award-winning theatres, museums and galleries, a variety of clubs and live music venues, and a range of spectator and participation sports. With a thriving cultural industries quarter and a range of city-wide events throughout the year, there is something on offer to suit everyone's taste and interests.

Located in the centre of the UK, at the heart of an excellent transport network, the M1 and M62 are within easy reach, there are 6 international airports within 65 miles and a bustling railway station offers access to every corner of the UK, and beyond.

The main University campus lies on the western edge of the city centre and is easy to get to by car, bus and tram.

[www.sheffield.ac.uk/city-region](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/city-region)



# UNIVERSITY BENEFITS, TERMS AND CONDITIONS

## Support

Academic administrative support is available.

## Library Facilities

The University Clinical Library is housed on 'C' Floor of the Royal Hallamshire Hospital. The Medical Library is in the main University Library which is within half a mile of the Royal Hallamshire Hospital and offers excellent lending reference and national lending (Boston Spa) facilities.

As part of the Faculty of Medicine Dentistry and Health's Medical School redevelopment, the Health Sciences Library (HSL) at RHH was reconfigured and refurbished during 2012. More information can be found at [www.shef.ac.uk/library/libnews/rhhrefurb](http://www.shef.ac.uk/library/libnews/rhhrefurb)

## Reward Package

This post is open ended, tenable immediately.

If you join the University you will have access to a Total Reward Package that includes a competitive salary, a generous Pension Scheme and annual leave entitlement, as well as access to a range of learning and development courses to support your personal and professional development. You will have access to your own personalised portal where you can also access a comprehensive selection of benefits and offers to suit your changing lifestyle needs, for example financial wellbeing, travel options, shopping and cinema discounts.

To find out more visit [www.sheffield.ac.uk/hr/thedeal](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/hr/thedeal)

This role has been identified as a full-time post, but we are committed to exploring flexible working opportunities with our staff which benefit both the individual and the University (See [www.sheffield.ac.uk/hr/guidance/flexible/arrangements](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/hr/guidance/flexible/arrangements)). Therefore, we would consider flexible delivery of the role subject to meeting the business needs of the post. If you wish to explore flexible working opportunities in relation to this post, we encourage you to call or email the departmental contact listed below.

## Sustainability at Sheffield

The University is committed to tackling the global climate emergency. Our sustainability strategy forms an integral part of all we do. We strive to embed this in all areas of university life, from our students' education, the globally impacting international research we contribute, to campus life.

We aim to empower staff to work sustainably by giving them the knowledge to make ethical decisions at work and home. Staff have the opportunity to be involved in impactful sustainability projects through the nationally recognised Green Impact scheme.

Staff have access to excellent green benefits including the cycle to work scheme with discounts and free secure bike storage, as well as many greener choices across campus.

If you have an interest in this area, the university will strive to passionately support you in these commitments. Check out [www.sheffield.ac.uk/sustainability](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/sustainability) for more information.

## Juice

We are committed to making the University a remarkable place to work and we support this through a number of sector leading services such as Juice.

Our innovative Health and Wellbeing service, Juice, encourages and supports staff to maintain their own positive health and wellbeing through a broad range of inclusive services and activities.

To find out more visit [www.sheffield.ac.uk/juice](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/juice)

### Leadership Development

Our leadership development has been designed to ensure that our leaders have the knowledge, skills and behaviours needed by the University.

To find out more visit [www.sheffield.ac.uk/hr/sld/impact](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/hr/sld/impact)

### Disability Confident Employer

Inclusion at Sheffield is everyone's responsibility. Our vision is to build a University community that actively attracts, engages and develops talented individuals from many different backgrounds.

We are proud of our award-winning equality, diversity and inclusion action, and 90% of staff tell us they are treated with fairness and respect (staff survey 2018). We continue working to create a fully inclusive environment where everyone can flourish.

To find out more visit [www.sheffield.ac.uk/inclusion](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/inclusion)

### Sunday Times 100 Best Not-for-Profit organisation

We are the only university to feature in the Sunday Times 100 Best Not-for-Profit organisations to work for 2018. In our staff survey (2018) 92% of staff said they were proud to work for the University and 83% of our staff would recommend the University as an excellent place to work. To find out more about what it's like to work here visit [remarkable.group.shef.ac.uk](http://remarkable.group.shef.ac.uk)

### Criminal records check

Please note that as this post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, a satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service Disclosure will be required for the appointee. If you have a spent criminal record and are invited to interview for this post, you are required to provide details of your convictions in confidence, with the job reference number/ title of post/recruiting department, in advance of the interview to the Deputy Director of HR, Human Resources, The University of Sheffield, The Arts Tower, Western Bank, Sheffield, S10 2TN (mark the envelope PERSONAL). This information will be treated as strictly confidential and will only be considered if you are invited to interview for the post.

If you have been barred from working with children or vulnerable adults by the Disclosure and Barring Service it is a criminal offence to apply for a post involving regulated activity with children or vulnerable adults. Regulated activity involves contact of a specified nature. If you are unsure if you may apply for this post for this reason then please contact Lorraine Sweeney [l.sweeney@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:l.sweeney@sheffield.ac.uk) in Human Resources for further information.

Appointment to the post will be subject to a security check, which will be carried out for the preferred candidate.

### Creating a remarkable place to work

We build teams of people from different heritages and lifestyles from across the world, whose talent and contributions complement each other to greatest effect. We believe diversity in all its forms delivers greater impact through research, teaching and student experience.

We are consistently ranked in the top 100 of the world's universities, but there's so much more to us than that. By joining the University, you will be joining award-winning teams and departments who are all working together to make the University of Sheffield a remarkable place to work.

Learn more [here](#).



## HOW TO APPLY

Applications must include:

- Your full contact details including email and full postal addresses, and a telephone number
- A covering letter or statement explaining how you meet the criteria set out above and an outline of your research vision over the next five years
- A full CV and publications list

Applications and queries about the post should be addressed to Mary Comer, [mcomer@wittkiewfer.com](mailto:mcomer@wittkiewfer.com), +44 (0)7408 850797. All enquiries will be treated in strict confidence; they will not form part of the selection decision.