

# CANDIDATE PACK

## Lecturer in Life Sciences (Bioinformatics)

School of Life Sciences

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

UNIVERSITY OF  
WESTMINSTER 



# OUR UNIVERSITY

Under the inspirational leadership of Professor Peter Bonfield OBE, the University of Westminster is a place where discoveries are made, barriers are broken, diversity is celebrated and where everyone is welcome. Serving more than 21,000 undergraduate, postgraduate, apprentice and executive students, our mission is to transform the lives of young people from all backgrounds. We seek to make the world a more inclusive, sustainable, better and healthier place through our educational, research and knowledge exchange endeavours.

Since our founding in 1838 we have stood out as innovators, committed to tackling social inequalities. In 2021, our University ranked 2nd in England out of more than 100 higher education institutions for social mobility. The ranking - produced by the Institute for Fiscal Studies and the Sutton Trust - compares the number of students from low-income backgrounds at universities, and the extent to which their studies helped them to move up the income ladder. Westminster has the second highest performance among universities in England.

As we focus forward to 2029, we will continue to do so in a way that is true to our progressive, compassionate and responsible values. Our education offer will be more personalised and authentic, giving students from all backgrounds an opportunity of transformative learning, helping them succeed in their studies and professional lives. Our curriculum will be employability-linked, leading to stronger outcomes and helping prepare our graduates for the world of work and for life. Our research and knowledge exchange will enable us to maximise our positive impact on societies in the UK and around the world in an environment where everyone is inspired to succeed. Our priorities of wellbeing, inclusion and sustainable development will help us as we navigate through the challenges and opportunities towards 2029.





# OUR PRIORITIES

The University's 2022-2029 strategy, *Being Westminster*, sets us apart and builds on our unique history and achievements. In our University, we value social justice, moral conscience, inclusivity and equality, acting positively together to make change for good.

The University of Westminster has three priorities.

## WELLBEING

Working and studying together at Westminster as a community of students and colleagues is a big part of our lives – doing so in an environment that places our wellbeing front and centre helps us to be safe and feel safe. We care for the safety, health and wellbeing of those around us as well as ourselves.

## INCLUSION

All Westminster, colleagues and students are in a supportive and safe learning and working environment which is equitable, diverse and inclusive, is based on mutual respect and trust, and is a place where harassment and discrimination are not tolerated. As a responsible institution, we strive to ensure and to champion equality. As a progressive institution, we take pride in our diversity. As a compassionate institution, we commit to an inclusive culture that allows students and colleagues to reach their full potential.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

We take inspiration from the 17 United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in how we drive our actions and activities and governance across our University. As a community, we bring together our collective energies to play our part in addressing the climate crisis and inequalities to enable a more sustainable and socially just world. We are one of the top 20 universities in the world in SDG 5 for providing equal access and supporting the academic progression of women. We are one of the top 25 universities in the world in SDG 10 tackling economic, health based and international inequalities. We are in the top 50 universities in SDG 12 for promoting resource and energy efficiency, having a sustainable infrastructure, and providing access to basic services for all.





# OUR OBJECTIVES 2022-2029

Against a backdrop of a changing and challenging higher education environment, the University has recently completed a major review of its objectives and strategy and has published its commitments for the period 2022-29.

## EDUCATION

We will offer personalised and authentic education, underpinned by an inclusive curriculum, to enable all our students, from all backgrounds, to engage in transformative learning and to succeed in their studies and professional lives. We will address global, political, and social challenges through a relevant demand-led and forward-looking portfolio. We will do this by offering authentic teaching, learning and assessment modes which immerse students in the wider-world through live projects, work-based learning and global opportunities. We will invest in our people to enable all teaching colleagues to plan and deliver exceptional learning experiences and professional colleagues to offer exceptional support. Students will be empowered by working in partnership with colleagues and fellow students to shape the Westminster experience. We will develop an integrated physical and digital environment that supports excellent practical, active and collaborative learning for all our students.

## RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Research and knowledge exchange are fundamental to our commitment to making a positive difference to the world and transforming lives. We are committed to research in four priority areas: Diversity and Inclusion; Health Innovation and Wellbeing; Sustainable Cities and the Urban Environment; Arts, Communication and Culture. Our excellence in research and knowledge exchange will infuse our education endeavour, inspiring and equipping our students as agents of change locally as well as globally. We will continue to grow our community of PhD researchers, ensuring that the Westminster postgraduate research experience remains sector leading and the foundation for great careers. In knowledge exchange we will focus on engagement with government, business and with the public and local community. We will achieve more when we identify shared interests and build partnerships with our communities and collaborate for the public good with a clear civic purpose.

## EMPLOYABILITY

We will ensure that all our students benefit from employability-led learning and purposeful engagement with employers, business and industry, to give students from every background the best possible preparation for the world of work and enable the best possible employability outcomes. We will do this through the further extension and embedding of programmes such as work-based and placement learning; the Westminster Employability Award; Westminster Working Cultures; mentoring; and student enterprise. Employability-related learning will be a core and critical part of the courses and curriculum we offer, right across the University. It will be front and centre of life at the University for students and colleagues.



A key priority will be the development of a dedicated Centre for Employability and Enterprise at 29 Marylebone Road, intended to transform our student experience and our engagement with business, industry and employers. The Centre will provide a game-changing experience through which undergraduate and postgraduate students from across Westminster will come together and practise enterprise; develop an entrepreneurial mindset and skills; access training, work, projects, business advice and mentoring; and connect directly with employers. The future-focused environment of the Centre will scale up our employability provision, helping our students to be 'fit for the future' in the most challenging of post-pandemic labour markets and economic environments. It will strengthen links between our UK-based and international employer partners and our motivated, bright, work-ready students, affording employers access to a diverse mix of people right for the needs of the contemporary workforce.

## GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

We will raise the international reputation and reach of the University, ensuring that 30% of our undergraduate community and 70% of our taught postgraduates come to us from overseas. Overseas partnerships will remain central to our global engagements. We will prioritise the outward mobility of our students to partner institutions, contributing to students' development of employability skills and competences. We will extend and deepen our Trans-National Education relationships. These partnerships, particularly that with Westminster International University in Tashkent, will move beyond franchised or validated arrangements to embrace employability, alumni-related research, CPD and knowledge exchange connections.





# OUR STRUCTURE

## ACADEMIC STRUCTURE

Our structure is built to deliver an enhanced learning environment, stronger and broader industrial, international and professional connections and pioneering and impactful research. The University comprises three Colleges:

### Westminster Business School

- School of Organisations, Economy and Society
- School of Finance and Accounting
- School of Applied Management
- School of Management and Marketing

### Design, Creative and Digital Industries

- School of Architecture and Cities
- Westminster School of Arts
- School of Computer Science and Engineering
- Westminster School of Media and Communications

### Liberal Arts and Sciences

- School of Social Sciences
- Westminster Law School
- School of Humanities
- School of Life Sciences

The University Executive Board comprises:

- Vice Chancellor and President
- Deputy Vice Chancellor (Employability and Global Engagement)
- Deputy Vice Chancellor (Education and Students)
- Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Knowledge Exchange)
- Chief Operating Officer and University Secretary
- Three Heads of College

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Our Professional Services teams support the effective and professional delivery of our teaching, research and knowledge exchange and the management of student residences and sports facilities.

- Academic Registry
- Business Engagement
- Estates
- Finance and Commercial Activities
- Global Recruitment, Admissions, Marketing and Communications
- Information Systems and Support
- People, Culture and Wellbeing
- Strategy, Planning and Performance
- Student and Academic Services



# JOB DESCRIPTION

**Job Title: Lecturer in Life Sciences (Bioinformatics)**

**Reports to: Assistant Head of School**

**Department: School of Life Sciences**

**Grade: L**

## PROFESSIONAL VALUES

All Lecturers are required to demonstrate respect for individual learners and be committed to incorporating the process and outcomes of relevant research, scholarship and/or professional practice. Lecturers are required to be committed to the development of learning communities and encouraging participation in Higher Education, while acknowledging diversity and promoting equality of opportunity. It is also a requirement that all staff are committed to undertaking continuing professional development and evaluation of individual practice and that they are proactive in improving the student experience.

## ROLE PURPOSE

To teach on a range of areas in life sciences including Bioinformatics, Statistics and Research methods and their application to human disease diagnosis and treatment or related subject matters as a member of a teaching team in a developing capacity within established programmes of study at the School of Life Sciences e.g. BSc Biological Sciences, BSc Biomedical Science, BSc Applied Biomedical Science, BSc Biochemistry and other associated apprenticeship, undergraduate, postgraduate and foundation courses.

## PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

1. Teach face to face and online within an established programme or programmes of study, and within a variety of settings from small tutorial groups to large lectures, ensuring that learning needs of the students are identified, that appropriate learning objectives are defined and that the content of the learning materials and methods of delivery meet the defined learning objectives. This may include module leadership.
2. Contribute to development of face to face and online teaching materials, methods and approaches with guidance. Develop personal skills and appropriate approaches to teaching, seeking guidance from senior staff as appropriate and continually seeking ways of improving performance by reflecting on teaching design and delivery by obtaining and analysing feedback from students and colleagues.
3. Create a climate for students that challenges thinking, fosters debate and develops the ability of students to engage in critical discourse and rational thinking, ensuring that at all times the work of the students is supervised appropriately, and advice and assistance is provided on study skills and any other learning issues.





4. Use appropriate assessment instruments and criteria to assess the progress of the students and ensure that all students are provided with constructive feedback in a prompt and timely manner.
5. Develop and extend contacts and regularly participate in internal and external networks for the exchange of information and ideas and to develop good working relationships.
6. Contribute to preparing technical material e.g. proposals and applications for funding or accreditation and proactively seek to obtain external grant funding in relevant research areas.
7. Act as a personal tutor and mentor for students, ensuring that appropriate listening, interpersonal and pastoral care skills are used to deal with sensitive or difficult issues and that appropriate support is provided, taking into account individual student needs and circumstances, referring students to specialist support services if necessary.
8. Engage in subject, professional or pedagogic research and other scholarly activities which can support teaching activity and where the quality of the outputs can be recognised nationally in terms of originality, significance and rigour.
9. Undertake any other duties within their competence as required by the University.

## CONTEXT

The postholder will be expected to manage their own teaching, scholarly and administrative activities within the framework set by the school, College or University policy. There may be a requirement to supervise student projects, fieldwork or placements depending on the module or course. The postholder will be expected to possess sufficient breadth or depth of specialist knowledge to be able to deliver high quality teaching and support to established teaching programmes. The postholder will be expected to engage in a programme of continuous professional development, in consultation with their line manager.

The postholder has responsibility for ensuring that suitable and sufficient risk assessments are undertaken for the activities for which they are responsible and that measures to control risk are identified and implemented and communicated to all affected.

They must ensure the provision of adequate supervision and training, to include: the responsibility to work with due regard for the health and safety of themselves and others; familiarity with actions to be taken in the event of emergency; and the duty to report accidents and hazards appropriately.

The University of Westminster has developed the Professional Recognition Enhancement Scheme for Teaching (PRESTige) accredited by the Higher Education Academy (HEA) for Fellowship of the HEA at different categories. The categories range from Associate Fellow (AFHEA), Fellow (FHEA), Senior Fellow (SFHEA) and Principal Fellow (PFHEA) and are benchmarked against the UK Professional Standards Framework for Teaching and





Supporting Learning, 2011 (UKPSF). All academic colleagues are strongly encouraged to engage with PRESTige and work towards the appropriate category of fellowship. For further information, contact [Centreforteachinginnovation@westminster.ac.uk](mailto:Centreforteachinginnovation@westminster.ac.uk)

## DIMENSIONS

The appointed Lecturer will teach in a range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses, examples including BSc Biomedical Science (including Foundation), BSc Applied Biomedical Science (including Foundation), BSc Biological Science (including Foundation), BSc Biochemistry (including Foundation), BSc Medical Science (including Foundation), BSc Pharmacology and Physiology (including Foundation), and MSc Biomedical Science.

Student Numbers: Range from 25 to 700 depending on lecture or tutorial and level of teaching.

Location: Central London



# PERSON SPECIFICATION

## QUALIFICATIONS

### Essential

- Degree
- Post-Graduate Degree or Professional Qualification
- Teaching Qualification, (e.g. PGCHE Learning & Teaching) or the commitment to achieve this at the earliest possible date or equivalent relevant teaching experience as assessed by the recruiting manager.
- An expectation of prior attainment of HEA Fellowship or a willingness to undertake and engage with the University's PRESTige scheme for the appropriate category within an agreed timeframe

### Desirable

- Life Sciences PhD in a relevant subject.

## TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE

### Essential

- Ability to design and deliver course materials
- Proven record of successful experience in research and teaching.
- Up to-date subject expertise in biochemistry and chemistry.
- Breadth and depth of specialism of specialist knowledge in the discipline, to work within existing programmes.
- Engagement in continuous professional development.

### Desirable

- Contribution to design of teaching or research.
- Teaching experience in biochemistry and its application to human disease diagnosis and treatment.
- Securing research funding or assisting in doing so.

## APTITUDES, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

### Essential

- High level analytical capability.
- Ability to communicate information clearly.
- Ability to encourage commitment to learn in others.





- Fully committed to contributing to a stimulating learning and working environment which is supportive and fair, based on mutual respect and trust, and in which harassment and discrimination are neither tolerated nor acceptable.

**Desirable**

- Ability to assess and organise resources.
- Ability to engage with inter-disciplinary research in related fields.
- Understanding of and ability to contribute towards broader management issues



# HOW TO APPLY

To apply for this vacancy, please visit our [vacancies page](#) where you will be able to download our application form template. You will then be requested to complete a quick registration before being able to upload completed application form and any supporting documentation.

## Applications should include:

- A concise statement in support (ideally no longer than two pages), addressing the criteria in the Person Specification and motivation for applying.
- You may also include an up to date curriculum vitae.
- names and contact details of two referees (although referees will only be approached at offer stage).

**The deadline for receipt of applications is midnight on 11 November 2024.**

**Interviews will take place on week commencing 25 November 2024.**

An appointment will be made subject to proof of eligibility to work in the UK and satisfactory references being obtained.

At the University of Westminster, diversity, inclusion and equality of opportunity are at the core of how we engage with students, colleagues, applicants, visitors and all our stakeholders.

We are fully committed to enabling a supportive and safe learning and working environment which is equitable, diverse and inclusive, is based on mutual respect and trust, and in which harassment and discrimination are neither tolerated nor acceptable.

*The University has adopted Smart Working principles to support and further our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion aims of being an inclusive, collaborative and flexible employer. Further details of Smart Working can be discussed at interview stage.*

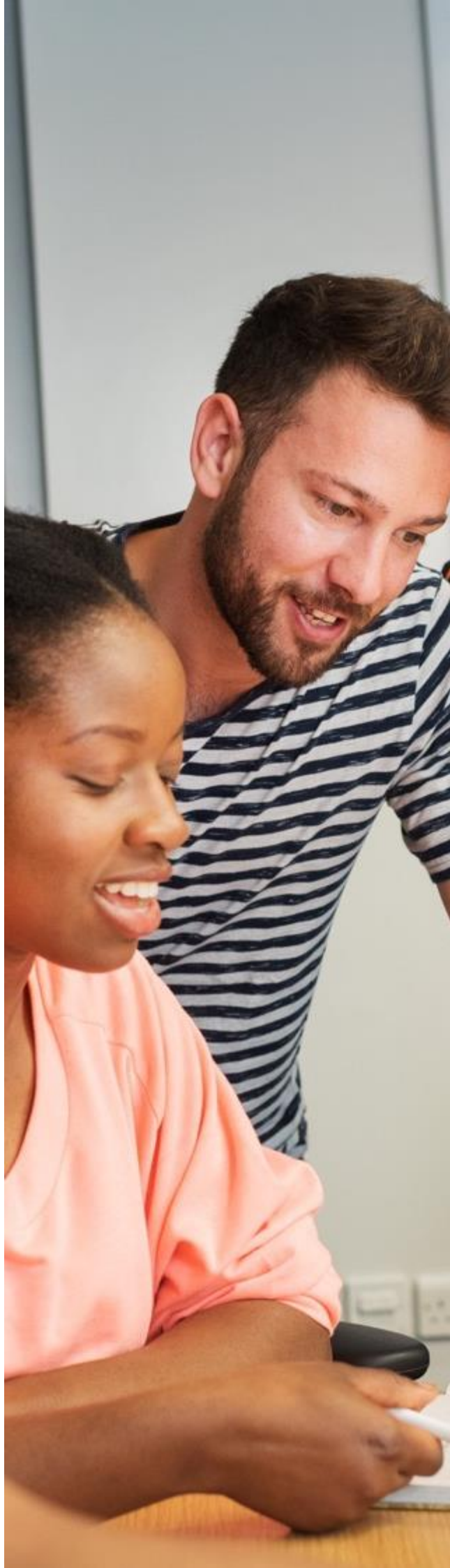




# OUR BENEFITS

The University offers a range of wellbeing and work-life balance benefits to recognise and reward the essential contribution our colleagues make to success and growth. Our benefits are inclusive for colleagues of all backgrounds including LGBTQ+ colleagues, disabled colleagues, pregnant colleagues, parents and carers, as well as colleagues of all genders, age, ethnicities, nationalities, religion and beliefs, and marriage and civil partnership status.

- 35 days annual leave per year, plus bank/national holidays and University of Westminster closure days (pro-rata for part-time staff).
- A generous occupational pension scheme.
- Annual incremental progression and/or cost of living reviews.
- Generous maternity, paternity and adoption leave.
- Flexible working and smart working.
- Learning and development opportunities.
- Free membership rates for a wide range of sporting facilities, including gyms at Regent Street and Harrow campuses, as well as the Chiswick Sports Ground.
- Employee assistance programme.
- The opportunity to participate in other attractive employee benefit schemes such as Cycle to Work, Eye Care Vouchers, Season Ticket Loans, and Give As You Earn.





[westminster.ac.uk](https://www.westminster.ac.uk)

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