

Vacancy for a Specialist or a Senior Specialist Biomedical Scientist

The **UK National External Quality Assessment Scheme for Immunocytochemistry and In-Situ Hybridisation (UK NEQAS ICC & ISH)** provides external quality assessment (EQA) services to healthcare laboratories throughout the UK and overseas. We do this to help them monitor and improve the quality of their cancer testing, and so improve outcomes for cancer patients worldwide.

UK NEQAS ICC & ISH has been in business for more than 40 years. It is fully accredited to international (ISO) standards and is a member of the UK NEQAS Charity.

We are a small team of enthusiastic, hard-working scientists and administrative staff, based in offices and laboratory accommodation in Farringdon, London.



We are expanding our capacity to enable us to cope with the increasing complexity and volume of testing and the growing demand for our services. As a result, a vacancy has arisen for a scientist to contribute to the Scheme's work.

In your role you will:

- Participate in the scientific and laboratory work that supports our core EQA activities,
- Be involved in our assessment sessions, working with expert assessors from across the world,
- Carry-out directed scientific research to improve our services.

About you:

- As a minimum, you will be a Specialist Biomedical Scientist qualified in Cellular Pathology,
- You will hold HCPC registration and the IBMS Specialist Diploma.
- You will have extensive experience of working in immunohistochemistry.
- If you wish to be considered for the Senior role you will additionally hold a MSc. and/or IBMS Special Examination or equivalent,
- You must be energetic, meticulous and enthusiastic.

If you are the right person we are prepared to train you and to help you develop in your role so that you enjoy a successful and rewarding career with us.



Your gross starting salary will be £46,419 to £55,046 per annum (Specialist role) or £56,276 to £63,176 per annum (senior specialist role).

The post is a permanent full-time position, (37.5 hour 5-day working week).

If you want to know more about this opportunity, read the Job Description and Person Specification which are attached.



To apply, send your **CV and cover letter** to Andy Dodson (Director) at: adodson@ukneqasiccish.org

We should receive your application by Thursday 30th April at the latest.

Visit our website at: ukneqasiccish.org



JOB DESCRIPTION

STAFF SCIENTIST

POST:	Staff Scientist
GRADE:	Grade 6 (Specialist Biomedical Scientist) or Grade 7 (Senior Specialist Biomedical Scientist). Dependent on experience and qualifications.
BASED AT:	UK NEQAS ICC & ISH Office 5 Coldbath Square and Laboratory 10 Coldbath Square, London EC1R 5HL.
RESPONSIBLE TO:	Scheme Manager and the Scheme Director
ACCOUNTABLE TO:	EQASCD Board of Directors
MAIN DUTIES:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Provide laboratory-based technical work to support to the Scheme's EQA activities.2. Provide assessor duties and administrative duties to support the Scheme's Assessments.3. Other duties as directed.

OVERVIEW OF UK NEQAS ICC & ISH

Immunocytochemistry (ICC) and in-situ hybridisation (ISH) are slide-based technologies used in the majority of cellular departments that provide information to confirm the diagnosis of many pathological conditions and in particular, cancer. Additionally, in some settings the information they provide is prognostic and/or predictive of response to therapies.

UK NEQAS for ICC & ISH was established in the 1980's by a group of like-minded scientists to assess and improve the quality of ICC and latterly ISH testing. It was recognised by the UK Department of Health in 1988 and subsequently became a founding member of the UK NEQAS Charity, a charity registered in England and Wales.

The Scheme is registered with UK Accreditation Services and is a fully ISO accredited proficiency testing provider in the field of external quality assessment (EQA).

UK NEQAS-ICC & ISH Offices are based at 5 Coldbath Square, Farringdon, London.

The Scheme has a large multi-national participant base. The majority of UK participants are clinical laboratories based in NHS hospitals.

The Scheme's EQA programmes are run as a not-for-profit subscription-based service. They offer quality assessments of advanced investigations within the field of cellular pathology.

POST-HOLDER'S DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The post-holder is expected to support the technical service by undertaking laboratory-based work, and to support EQA Assessment related activities by participating in assessments.

1. General cellular pathology laboratory skills.
2. Processing and embedding tissues and cell preparation.
3. Section cutting of formalin-fixed, wax-embedded and fresh frozen samples.
4. Basic tinctorial staining (H&E), by hand and automated processor.
5. Construction of multi-tissue blocks, including Tissue Micro-Array blocks.
6. Immunocytochemical staining by hand and automated staining.

7. Reporting to individuals or groups using oral, written and presenting media.
8. Collation and analysis of EQA and research data.
9. Participate in internal quality activities including audit, competency assessments, investigating on non-conformance.
10. Assist in EQA related activities including assessment as an assessor and/or lead assessor
11. Post-assessment validation and report preparation.
12. Assist with general administrative duties where required.

In addition to the above activities the post-holder will be required to:

1. Attend and participate in staff meetings.
2. Actively pursue their own Continuing Professional Development activities and liaise with the Training Officer.
3. Comply with the Scheme's Health and Safety regulations.
4. Take part in an annual joint review/appraisal.
5. Be aware of disciplinary procedure, disciplinary rules, grievance procedures as set-out in the Employee Handbook.
6. Be aware of the Health and Safety at Work Act, UK NEQAS Office and Laboratory Fire Guidelines and Equal Opportunities Policy

The hours of work are 37.5 hours per 5-day week (Monday to Friday within the core hours of 8:00am and 17:00pm).

EQASCD is an equal opportunities employer.

This job description is not meant to be restrictive or exhaustive, and duties may change in response to changing circumstances. When required, changes to duties will be discussed with the post-holder.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Requirement	Essential	Desirable
Knowledge, training and experience	<p>Significant experience with cellular pathology laboratory work in the healthcare or research setting,</p> <p>Hold BSc, or equivalent in a relevant subject.</p> <p>Hold HCPC registration and the IBMS Specialist Diploma.</p> <p>For the Senior Specialist role: hold a MSc., or equivalent in a relevant subject.</p> <p>Hold the IBMS Special Examination (Fellowship).</p> <p>Demonstrate an awareness of developments in cellular pathology.</p> <p>Be able to show evidence of commitment to continuing personal and professional development.</p> <p>Ability to work to deadlines.</p> <p>Maintain confidentiality and act in a professional manner at all times.</p> <p>Extensive experience of immunocytochemical techniques.</p>	
Communication	<p>Ability to communicate effectively and efficiently with people both within and external to the Scheme, in English both verbally and in writing.</p> <p>Demonstrate good interpersonal and relationship skills.</p>	
Physical skills	<p>Demonstrate good hand-eye co-ordination.</p> <p>Competent keyboard skills.</p> <p>Proficient in use of general laboratory and office equipment.</p>	
Physical effort	<p>No specific requirements but must be aware of regulations and best practice guidelines relevant to manual lifting and handling.</p>	
Managerial	<p>Demonstrate an ability to multi-task and to manage a large workload.</p>	
Other	<p>Ability to work accurately, neatly and efficiently.</p> <p>Ability to plan and organise workload.</p> <p>Demonstrable enthusiasm and motivation</p>	<p>Flexible approach to actual hours of work.</p>