

Senior Bioinformatics Research Officer

Further Particulars

Environment

The position will be held in the bioinformatics research group of Prof. Geoff Barton (<http://www.compbio.dundee.ac.uk>) in the 5* research rated University of Dundee School of Life Sciences. The Group currently comprises one Professor, one Senior Researcher five Post Docs and five Ph.D. students. A further two post-doc positions will be filled by January 2006 and the Group will also be joined by an independent research fellow. The Group has excellent managed computing facilities that include a dedicated 150cpu cluster and storage area network of >12Tb.

The University of Dundee, School of Life Sciences comprises 70 Research Groups and 650 staff from 53 countries and was recently rated the best European Research Institute in which to work ("The Scientist", November 8th 2004). Current research grants exceed £24 million p.a. A new research building will open in August 2005 (<http://www.dundee.ac.uk/lifesciences/CIR/welcome.htm>). Research papers published by University of Dundee scientists in the fields of Biology, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology were more highly cited over the past 10 years than any other University in Europe.

Dundee is in a beautiful location on the East Coast of Scotland, with an outstanding standard of living, above average sunshine, and excellent Air, Rail and Road communications. See the Group photo gallery for some images of Dundee and its surroundings.

Group Research Interests

Research interests centre on sequence and structural bioinformatics and function prediction, and include significant projects in software development. Further details of past and current projects can be found on our website (www.compbio.dundee.ac.uk).

This position

The role of this position is both to facilitate research within the bioinformatics research group and to help foster new interactions between the large population of wet-laboratory researchers in the School of Life Sciences, and the Group. This will be achieved by carrying out small and larger-scale pilot computational projects in collaboration with researchers throughout the School. A key component in fostering this interaction will be the maintenance and extension of existing custom databases, web services and our internal bioinformatics web site.

Skills Required

We are looking for someone with all-round knowledge of bioinformatics techniques but most importantly, the ability and enthusiasm to acquire new skills and techniques as necessary. You will be self-motivated and comfortable interacting with both

laboratory-based scientists and bioinformatics/computational specialists. A Likely background for the successful candidate will be a Ph.D. in either biological or physical sciences followed by a minimum of three years experience in the development and application of bioinformatics techniques. These should include the installation and use of common sequence analysis tools (e.g. EMBOSS, BLAST), as well as more generic techniques such as relational database design and implementation. You will have strong skills in at least one high-level programming language in addition to Perl. Demonstrated deep knowledge and experience in one area of bioinformatics research (e.g. Genome analysis, Structural Analysis or microarray analysis) would be advantageous.

Funding

The position is funded by the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council (SHEFC) for up to four years in the first instance. The post has been created as the result of a competitive award of £2.51 Million to initiate the Scottish Bioinformatics Research Network (SBRN).

About SBRN

SBRN is funded jointly by the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council (SHEFC), Scottish Enterprise (SE) and the Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department (SEERAD). It is coordinated by Prof. Geoff Barton, and spans the Universities of Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow as well as Scottish Research Institutes such as the SCRI (Scottish Crop Research Institute). A component of SBRN: the Scottish Bioinformatics Forum (SBF), is concerned with outreach to industry and training. At Dundee, the SBRN award funds two positions: a programmer/systems administrator who has already been appointed, and the Senior Bioinformatics Research Officer. The new appointee will benefit not only from the stimulating research environment in Dundee, but also from links through SBRN to bioinformatics researchers in centres at Glasgow and Edinburgh and throughout Scotland.

Applications

Informal enquiries about this position may be made to Prof. Geoff Barton by email or phone.

Applications should be sent as soon as possible, in the form of a CV and covering letter (2 copies of each), including the names and addresses of 3 referees, to Mrs Janette Cordiner, Administrator, School of Life Sciences, MSI/WTB Complex, University of Dundee, DD1 5EH (email: j.v.brown@dundee.ac.uk) quoting reference LS/940/www.