

# Bioinformatician

Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute

Closing Date: 9<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Job Reference: SW45007



# Bioinformatician

**Salary:**

£34,866 - £45,163

**Contract:**

Fixed Term, 2 years in the first instance.

**Location:**

Cambridge

**Faculty / Department:**

Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute

**Responsible to:**

Florian Markowetz

**Working Pattern:**

Full Time

**Purpose of the role**

The Markowetz research group is located at the Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute University of Cambridge. The Institute is core-funded by Cancer Research UK and has state-of-the-art research facilities for over 20 research groups to undertake world-class research into all aspects of cancer biology.

The Markowetz lab tries to understand the mechanisms leading to chromosomal instability and genomic chaos using bulk and single cell sequencing and computational analysis.

We are seeking a Bioinformatician for the analysis of large-scale genomics datasets (mainly single-cell DNA-sequencing, single-nuclei DNA-sequencing and bulk DNA-sequencing datasets) to support our discovery and translational research, liaising with our lab bioinformatician and the bioinformatics core for the collection of data and initial pipeline processing (e.g. mapping) up to and including data analysis.

The successful candidate will provide informatic support to researchers in the group, assist in various aspects of data analysis and devise novel solutions to experimental and analytical problems presented by researcher pushing boundaries of current practice. There will also be opportunity within the role to train other group members in the use of bioinformatics software.

The successful candidate will have a Masters in Bioinformatics or a relevant field and strong Bioinformatics skills, including previous hands-on experience in analyzing single-cell RNA-sequencing datasets in an academic setting. Candidates are expected to be highly collaborative, good communicators, creative thinkers, able to find solutions to problems, to work effectively as part of a team and to contribute intellectually to other projects developed in the laboratory.

**Key responsibilities:**

- Carry out Bioinformatic research on data generated within the research programme(s).
- Provide expert informatic support to researchers in the group.
- Devise novel solutions to experimental and analytical problems.
- Provide training and mentoring of junior computational members of the team on use of bioinformatic software.
- Engage at lab meetings and contribute intellectually to other projects developed in the laboratory.
- Work alongside non-computational lab members and collaborators to integrate data from laboratory experiments and bring projects to completion.



# Person Specification

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
<b>Education and qualifications</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MSc in computer Science, bioinformatics or related science discipline with considerable, relevant, experience in biology or computational biology research</li> </ul>	✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PhD in computer Science, bioinformatics, computational biology, or related science discipline</li> </ul>		✓
<b>Specialist knowledge, skills &amp; experience:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Experience in the use of bioinformatic data software and scripting language, R, Unix/Linux, Python and Windows batch scripting</li> <li>Experience in the analysis of next-generation sequencing datasets, including DNA and/or RNA sequencing data</li> </ul>	✓	
<b>Interpersonal and communication skills:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excellent written and verbal communication and presentation skills</li> <li>Excellent organisation skills and attention to detail</li> <li>Highly collaborative, good communicators, able to find solutions to problems. Ability to work independently as well as in a team.</li> </ul>	✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Experience of collaborating with non-computational research scientists.</li> </ul>		✓

# Behavioural Attributes

This section summarises the behavioural attributes (or competencies) that we expect the role holder to be able to demonstrate, at what level and whether this is an essential or desirable requirement. Full definitions are at: <https://www.hr.admin.cam.ac.uk/policies-procedures/behavioural-attributes>

Please review these and provide specific examples in your application of how you have demonstrated these attributes in your work, education or other experience. It will assist your application if you explain the situation, what you did and what the outcomes were.

Attribute	Level
Valuing Diversity	A
Achieving Results	B
Communication	C
Innovation and Change	C
Negotiating and Influencing	C
People Development	C
Relationship Building	B
Strategic Focus	C

# Professional Services Values

Developed by professional services staff, our values underpin everything we do. By living the values in the work we do, we hope to foster an environment where staff feel empowered. The values encourage staff to; work together and share skills to create a sense of community, act with integrity, take an inclusive and fair approach and develop honest and open relationships that are underpinned by our shared values. We encourage applicants to consider these values within their application.





# CRUK Cambridge Institute

The Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute (CRUK CI, [www.cruk.cam.ac.uk](http://www.cruk.cam.ac.uk)), housed in the Li Ka Shing Centre, focuses on tumour ecology and evolution. We are one of 4 CRUK core-funded Institutes, the others being the Manchester Institute, The Scotland Institute, and The Francis Crick Institute.

The CRUK CI has a diverse faculty comprising both basic and clinical investigators and aims not only to contribute fundamental discoveries in the basic biology of cancer but also to translate these into the clinic in a way that benefits patients. We have particular strengths in genomics, spatial biology, computational biology, and imaging, and currently devote significant research effort to cancers arising in the breast, pancreas, brain, and colon. We are hoping to expand to other disease areas that align to strengths in our local clinical programs but prefer to maintain a focus on solid tumours.

Our underlying philosophy is that only by embracing the full complexity of human cancers will we be able to devise new and effective treatment strategies. This leads many of our groups to examine questions relating to tumour heterogeneity, both between and within individual patients, with a goal of understanding how genomic and phenotypic diversity impact the course of disease development and its response to treatment. We also study the ecology of tumours, probing how interactions between tumour cells and the normal cells of the patient influence their respective behaviours. This includes immune cells but extends to other cell types of the stroma and vasculature. We also study the developmental origins of tumours and the processes that govern transitions from 'normal' to malignant cells.

We are a core-funded Institute, receiving generous and flexible support from CRUK, which is meant both to provide a state-of-the-art research environment and to enable investigators to engage in high risk/high reward and/or long-term strategic research programs that would be unlikely to be funded by other mechanisms. We are currently supported by 11 core facilities, whose remits range from genomics and proteomics to whole animal imaging. We also benefit from a dedicated, professional administrative staff.

We have a highly interconnected and collaborative faculty and a vibrant research

environment. We serve as a significant hub within the broader Cambridge cancer community and house the headquarters of the CRUK Cambridge Centre, the

largest of the CRUK Major Centres. In addition, the CI contributes to many of the collaborative centres and initiatives that Cancer Research UK helps to support, including the [Cambridge Biomedical Research Centre](#), the [Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre](#), and the [Cambridge Pancreatic Cancer Centre](#). We play a strong role in strategic CRUK initiatives, including RADNET, the Cancer Grand Challenges, the Children's Brain Tumour Center of Excellence, the Personalized Breast Cancer Institute, and the Personalized Brain Tumour Program. In three years, we will be adjacent to the brand new Cambridge Cancer Research Hospital.

We are sited on the Cambridge Biomedical Campus, home to Addenbrooke's Hospital, the University of Cambridge teaching hospital. This site, which encompasses the largest biomedical research cluster in Europe, also hosts many of our collaborating institutes, including the [MRC Laboratory for Molecular Biology](#), the [Hutchison/MRC Research Centre](#), the [Strangeways Research Laboratories for Genetic Epidemiology](#), the [Wellcome Trust Stem Cell Institute](#) and the [Cambridge Institute for Medical Research](#). The campus is also home to the Astra Zeneca world headquarters. In the wider Cambridge area we also have extensive links with the [Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute](#), and the [European Bioinformatics Institute](#). The CI is also a member of the [Organisation of European Cancer Institutes \(OECI\)](#).

Overall, the CRUK Cambridge Institute provides an outstanding scientific environment in which investigators are driven to make critical contributions to our understanding of cancer and its treatment.



Professor Greg Hannon, Director of Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute

# School of Clinical Medicine

Doing great work in a great place to work

## About the School

The School of Clinical Medicine currently employs nearly 3,000 people, spanning all varieties of staff type from Academic Professors to administrative support.

In 1976 in response to the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Medical Education in the late 1960's, a complete medical course was re-established in Cambridge with the opening of the School of Clinical Medicine at the new Addenbrooke's Hospital site.

On 21st November 1980, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, the Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, officially opened the Clinical School Building which presently accommodates the medical library, lecture theatres and seminar rooms.

The University of Cambridge School of Clinical Medicine aspires to change the practice of medicine and improve biological understanding in a wide range of clinical specialties and scientific disciplines. Collaborative research, both within biomedicine and crossing the boundaries to the mathematical, physical and social sciences, is key to our approach. The School also supports key enabling technologies and facilities in imaging, bioinformatics and biological systems. The main areas of research interest are:

- Cancer research
- Cardio-Respiratory Medicine
- Cellular mechanisms of disease
- Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism  
Epidemiology, Public Health and Primary Care Genetics and Genetic Medicine  
Haematological and Transplantation Medicine
- Infection and Immunity
- Neurosciences and Mental Health
- Stems Cells and Regenerative Medicine.



**Professor Patrick Maxwell, Regius Professor of Physic and Head of the School of Clinical Medicine**

The School aims to provide leadership in education, discovery and healthcare. It will achieve this through; inspirational teaching and training, outstanding basic and clinical research and integration of these to improve medical practice for both individual patients and the population.

## The School will:

Through inspirational teaching and training, educate individuals who:

- will become exceptional doctors or biomedical scientists
- combine a depth of scientific understanding with outstanding clinical and communication skills demonstrate a caring, compassionate and professional approach to patients and the public and
- are equipped to become future international leaders of their profession.

Through its commitment to the pursuit of excellence, support scientists of international standing in basic and clinical research aiming to:

- understand fundamental biology and thereby the mechanisms underlying disease integrate basic and clinical research
- apply a rigorous mechanism-based approach to clinical problems and
- innovate to solve the health challenges of our society.

# Terms of Appointment

## Tenure and probation

Appointments will be made on a fixed-term basis for a period of two years in the first instance.

Appointments will be subject to satisfactory completion of a six-month probationary period.

## Hours of Work and Working Pattern

The hours of work for the position are full-time, working Monday to Friday.

## Pension

You will automatically be enrolled to become a member of USS (Universities Superannuation Scheme) – a hybrid pension scheme. For further information please visit: [www.pensions.admin.cam.ac.uk/](http://www.pensions.admin.cam.ac.uk/).

## Annual leave

Full time employees are entitled to annual paid leave of 41 days inclusive of public holidays. For new part-time employees, annual leave will be pro rata'd based on days worked.

## General information

### Pre-employment checks

#### Right to work in the UK

We have a legal responsibility to ensure that you have the right to work in the UK before you can start working for us. If you do not have the right to work in the UK already, any offer of employment we make to you will be conditional upon you gaining it.

**Health declaration:** Once an offer of employment has been made the successful candidate will be required to complete a work health declaration form.

**Qualifications:** The person specification for this position lists qualifications that are essential and/or desirable. Please note that if you are offered the post you will be asked to provide your relevant original certificates of these qualifications.

**References:** Offers of appointment will be subject to the receipt of satisfactory references.

#### Screening Checks:

This role requires a basic disclosure and a security check. Any offer of employment we make to you will be conditional upon the satisfactory completion of these checks; whether an outcome is satisfactory will be determined by the University. The nature of this role may mean that the successful candidate will also need to undergo a health assessment.

#### Equality and Diversity

We particularly encourage women, and/or candidates from a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic background to apply for this vacancy as they are currently under-represented at this level within our University.

## Information if you have a disability

The University welcomes applications from individuals with disabilities. We are committed to ensuring fair treatment throughout the recruitment process. We will make adjustments to enable applicants to compete to the best of their ability wherever it is reasonable to do so and, if successful, to assist them during their employment.

Information for disabled applicants is available at <http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/staff/disabled/>

We encourage you to declare any disability that you may have, and any reasonable adjustments that you may require, in the section provided for this purpose in the application form. This will enable us to accommodate your needs throughout the process as required. However, applicants and employees may declare a disability at any time.

If you prefer to discuss any special arrangements connected with a disability, please contact the HR team at [mailbox-hr@cruk.cam.ac.uk](mailto:mailbox-hr@cruk.cam.ac.uk)



# The University

**The University of Cambridge is one of the world's oldest and most successful universities. We are a renowned centre for research, education, and scholarship that makes a significant contribution to society. The University is consistently ranked amongst the top universities in the world. Our affiliates have won more Nobel Prizes than any other University.**

Our sustained pursuit of academic excellence is built on a long history of world-leading teaching and research within a distinctive collegiate system. For eight centuries our ideas and innovations have shaped the world. Our principal goal is to remain one of the world's leading universities in an increasingly competitive global higher education sector. Today the University of Cambridge is at the centre of a cluster of over 4,300 businesses employing 58,000 people.

Our capital investment projects include academic and commercial growth at both the West Cambridge Innovation District, and the Biomedical Campus in the south of the city. Eddington, in North West Cambridge, is a mixed-use development including key worker housing for staff, a community centre and a new primary school, managed by the University. Through these projects, the University is deeply embedded in, and committed to serving, our local community. These are all conspicuous signs of a University that is not only adapting to new needs, but also anticipating the future.

Our mission is to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence. Our core values are:

- freedom of thought and expression; and
- freedom from discrimination.





# About Us

**The University is one of the world's leading academic centres. It comprises 150 faculties and departments, together with a central administration and other institutions. Our institutions, museums and collections are a world-class resource for researchers, students and members of the public representing one of the country's highest concentrations of internationally important collections.**

The University has an annual income of £2 billion. Research income, won competitively from the UK Research Councils, the European Union (EU), major charities and industry, exceeds £500 million per annum and continues to grow.

The Colleges and the University remain committed to admitting the best students regardless of their background and to investing considerable resources both in widening access and financial support. The 31 Colleges are self-governing, separate legal entities which appoint their own staff. Many academic staff are invited to join a College as a Teaching Fellow, which provides a further social and intellectual dimension. The Colleges admit undergraduate students, provide student accommodation and pastoral support and deliver small group teaching for undergraduates.

The University awards degrees and its faculties and departments provide lectures and seminars for students and determine the syllabi for teaching.

Our instinct for seeking out excellence and setting up enduring and mutually beneficial collaborations has led us to establish strategic partnerships across the globe. Whether it is the successful Cambridge-Africa Programme involving universities in Ghana, Uganda and elsewhere on the African continent; or the close association with the government of India to pursue new research in crop science; or the creation, with Germany's Max Planck Institutes, of a Cambridge-based centre for the study of ethics, human economy and social change – international partnerships are now an inextricable part of the University's make-up.

“Through its outstanding education, research and innovation, the University of Cambridge has made – and continues to make – a lasting contribution to human knowledge and is flourishing. By working at the University of Cambridge, you will be joining a vibrant community of students, scholars and professional services staff committed to supporting and enhancing the University's mission to contribute to society.”

Prof Deborah Prentice, Vice Chancellor  
2023



# Working at the University

**Working at Cambridge you will join a diverse, talented and innovative community, with more than 23,000 students and over 16,000 staff from all walks of life and corners of the world.**

The University continually explores strategies to attract and retain the best people. It is committed to supporting its staff to achieve their best. We are a fair, diverse and inclusive society and we believe our staff are our greatest asset. There is strong commitment to developing institutional leadership and supporting and encouraging staff development at all levels.

We offer a variety of roles including academic, research, professional, managerial and support roles. We also offer extensive benefits and excellent learning opportunities within a stimulating working environment.

The University's estate is undergoing the most significant transformation in its history. Cambridge has been able to create a science and technology campus to the west of the city centre, and is expanding further to the north west of Cambridge including investing in affordable homes for University key workers and community facilities. Even with our continued development, the University remains within walking or cycling distance across the campus. The University is a major partner on the Cambridge Biomedical Campus and we continue to redevelop our historic city centre sites demonstrating our determination to ensure that we can offer the best facilities and opportunities for our staff and students.



## Equality & diversity

The University has built its excellence on the diversity of its staff and student community. We aim to be a leader in fostering equality and inclusion, and in promoting respect and a sense of belonging for all. We encourage applications from all sections of society. All appointments are made on the basis of merit. We have an Equal Opportunities Policy, along with a range of diversity groups, including the Women's Staff Network, Race Equality Network and LGBT+ Staff Network. More details are available here:

<http://www.equality.admin.cam.ac.uk/>

The University has a bronze Race Equality Charter award, with a framework for improving the representation, progression and success of minority ethnic staff and students within higher education. Furthermore, the University's silver Athena swan award recognises and celebrates good practice in recruiting, retaining and promoting gender equality.



# Living in Cambridge

**Cambridge is rich in cultural diversity. From beautiful University and College buildings, museums and art galleries, quaint gardens and punts on the River Cam, to a vibrant restaurant and café scene, our employees are surrounded by the wonderful features of this unique city.**

You can find a wide-range of high street shops and 3 shopping centres, with independent alternatives at the historic market and nestled within the passageways in the city centre. You will find a cinema, bowling alley, a nightclub and various live performances at the Cambridge Leisure Park, with further entertainment options at the Corn Exchange, Arts Theatre and the ADC Theatre. Further information can be found on the Visit Cambridge website.

If you prefer the faster pace of life, London is a 45 minute train journey away. For those travelling from overseas, Stansted Airport is just 45 minutes away and Heathrow Airport under 2 hours away. The University is a short distance from a host of other attractions such as Ely Cathedral, Newmarket Races and various wildlife parks and stately homes. Cambridge is also within easy reach of the beautiful Broads and coastlines of Norfolk and Suffolk.

## Relocation Support

The University recognises the importance of helping individuals to move and settle into a new area. We provide support and guidance to those relocating internationally or domestically to take up a post at the University of Cambridge, liaising with other University offices and selected partners to ensure comprehensive relocation support is available. This includes: accommodation, childcare, schools, banking, immigration and transport. If you would like further information, please visit <https://www.accommodation.cam.ac.uk/RelocationService/>. The Shared Equity Scheme and the Reimbursement of Relocation Expenses Scheme provide financial assistance to qualifying new members of staff with the costs of relocating to Cambridge.

## Accommodation Service

The University Accommodation Service helps staff, students and visiting scholars who are affiliated to the University in their search for suitable accommodation in Cambridge. The dedicated accommodation team can provide access to a wide range of University-owned furnished and unfurnished properties, and has a database of private sector accommodation available for short and long-term lets. For further information and to register with this free service please visit <https://www.accommodation.cam.ac.uk/>



# What Cambridge can offer

**We offer a comprehensive reward package to attract, motivate and retain high performing staff at all levels and in all areas of work.**

The University offers a wide range of competitive benefits, from family leave entitlement, to shopping and travel discount schemes. Our generous annual leave package contributes to the positive wellbeing of our University employees. Sabbatical leave enables academics to focus on research and scholarship, whilst still maintaining their full salary. The University also has a [career break scheme](#) for academic and academic-related staff, with additional flexible working policies for all other staff.

## Pay and benefits

The University salary structure includes automatic service-related pay progression in many of its grades and an annual cost of living increase. In addition to this, employees are rewarded for outstanding contribution through a number of regular pay progression schemes. The University offers attractive pensions schemes for employees, with an additional benefit of a salary exchange arrangement providing tax and national insurance savings.



## CAMbens employee benefits

The University offers employees a wide range of competitive benefits, known as CAMbens. CAMbens offers something for everyone across a range of categories, including:

- Financial Benefits, including shopping discounts (both local and national) and a Payroll Giving scheme;
- Relocation and Accommodation Benefits, including relocation assistance and interest-free Rental Deposit Loans;
- Travel Benefits, including Cycle to Work, discounts on train season tickets and interest-free Travel to Work loans;
- Family Friendly and Lifestyle Benefits, including support with childcare and family friendly policies;
- Health and Wellbeing Benefits, including a University Staff Counselling Service, discounts at the University Sports Centre, and other local gyms, and healthcare schemes.





# What Cambridge can offer

## Family-friendly policies

The University recognises the importance of supporting its staff. We have a range of family-friendly policies to aid employees' work-life balance including a generous maternity, adoption and shared parental leave entitlement of 18 weeks full pay, and paid emergency leave for parents and carers.

Other family-friendly support includes:

Our highly regarded workplace nurseries, a childcare salary exchange scheme and a high quality holiday Playscheme may be available to help support University employees with caring responsibilities (subject to demand and qualifying criteria). Further childcare information can be found here:

<https://www.childcare.admin.cam.ac.uk/>

The [Newcomers and Visiting Scholars Group](#) is an organisation within the University run by volunteers whose aim is to help newly arrived wives, husbands, partners and families of Visiting Scholars and members of the University to settle in Cambridge and give them an opportunity to meet local people. The Postdoc Academy supports the postdoctoral community within Cambridge. Further details are available here: <https://www.postdocacademy.cam.ac.uk/>

## Your wellbeing

The University's Sport Centre, Counselling Services and Occupational Health are just some of the support services available to University employees to promote their physical and mental wellbeing. The University delivers The Festival of Wellbeing annually, which is a programme of stimulating talks and activities, which aim to promote wellbeing and good mental and physical health. The University also hosts the [Cambridge Festival](#), which is a great opportunity to get your first taste of public engagement, through volunteering, supporting hands-on activities or proposing a talk.

## Development opportunities

We support new employees to settle in through various activities as well as supporting their professional and career development on an ongoing basis. Our Personal and Professional Development (PPD) team provide development opportunities for all University employees, including face-to-face sessions, online learning modules and webinars. All employees also have unlimited access to LinkedIn Learning to support their development. Both new and existing employees can undertake funded Apprenticeships, which lead to a range of vocational and professional qualifications. We offer reduced staff fees for University of Cambridge graduate courses and the opportunity to attend lectures and seminars held by University departments and institutions. A range of University training providers also offer specialist learning and development in their own areas e.g. teaching and learning, digital literacy, finance, health and wellbeing, safety.





# How to apply

Applications should be submitted online via the University of Cambridge jobs page [www.jobs.cam.ac.uk](http://www.jobs.cam.ac.uk) by clicking “Apply online” in the job advert. You will need an email address to register for our online system.

Conversations about flexible working are encouraged at the University of Cambridge. Please feel free to discuss flexibility prior to applying (using the contact information below) or at interview if your application is successful.

Informal enquiries are welcomed and should be directed to:

[Mailbox-HR@cruc.cam.ac.uk](mailto:Mailbox-HR@cruc.cam.ac.uk)