

# Academically Advanced Socially Progressive

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## Research Associate

<b>Department</b>	Physics ( <a href="http://www.strath.ac.uk/science/physics/">www.strath.ac.uk/science/physics/</a> )		
<b>Faculty</b>	Faculty of Science ( <a href="http://www.strath.ac.uk/science/">www.strath.ac.uk/science/</a> )		
<b>Staff Category</b>	Research	<b>Reference No</b>	810213
<b>Reports To</b>	Professor Jonathan Pritchard	<b>Grade</b>	7
<b>Salary Range</b>	£37694 (limited due to funding)	<b>Contract Type</b>	Fixed Term (12 months)
<b>FTE</b>	1 FTE	<b>Closing Date</b>	03/05/2026
<b>Working Arrangements</b>	Fully On-site. Due to the nature of this role, it is based fully on-site.		
<b>Work Location</b>	John Anderson Building, 107 Rottenrow East, Glasgow, G4 0NG		



## Job Advert

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Applications are invited for a postdoctoral research associate to join the [Quantum Error Correction in dual-species Rydberg arrays \(QuERy\)](#) team working to develop a new cryogenic platform creating dual species atom arrays for quantum computation and quantum simulation. The project, funded in collaboration with the National Quantum Computing Centre, will develop new hardware to cool and trap arrays of over 100 qubits that will be used to perform both analogue and digital quantum simulation by exploiting the strong long-range interactions of highly excited Rydberg atoms.

As a Research Associate, under the general guidance of a research leader, you will develop research objectives and proposals, play a lead role in relation to a specific project/s or part of a broader project, conduct individual and/or collaborative research, contribute to the development of new research methods, identify sources of funding, and contribute to the securing of funds for research, including drafting grant proposals and planning for future proposals. You will write up research work for publication, individually or in collaboration with colleagues, and disseminate the results via peer reviewed journal publications and presentation at conferences. You will join external networks to share information and ideas, inform the development of research objectives and to identify potential sources of funding. You will collaborate with colleagues to ensure that research advances inform departmental teaching effort and you will collaborate with colleagues on the development of knowledge exchange activities by, for example, participating in initiatives which establish research links with industry and influence public policy and the professions. You will supervise student projects, provide advice to students and contribute to teaching as required by, for example, running tutorials and supervising practical work. You will contribute in a developing capacity to Department/School, Faculty and/or University administrative and management functions and committees and engage in continuous professional development.

To be considered for the role, you will be educated to a minimum of PhD level in an appropriate discipline, or have significant relevant experience in addition to a relevant degree. You will have sufficient breadth or depth of knowledge in atomic quantum technologies and a developing ability to conduct individual research work, to disseminate results and to prepare research proposals. You will have an ability to plan and organise your own workload effectively and an ability to work within a team environment. You will have excellent interpersonal and communication skills, with the ability to listen, engage and persuade, and to present complex information in an accessible way to a range of audiences.

Whilst not essential for the role, applications are welcomed from candidates with: relevant work experience, membership of relevant Chartered/professional bodies (including the Higher Education Academy), experience of relevant student supervision and teaching activities, and/or experience of knowledge exchange related activities.

Whilst a Post-Doctoral Research Associate is ideally sought for this position; applications from candidates who are close to PhD completion or whose award is pending, are welcome. In such circumstances, the appointment will be made at Research Assistant level (grade 6) and duties will be adjusted to reflect the grade of the post. This will continue until the PhD award is confirmed, at which point the duties and grade will be revised accordingly.

The post will be available from Spring 2026.

Informal enquiries should be directed to Prof. Jonathan Pritchard ([jonathan.pritchard@strath.ac.uk](mailto:jonathan.pritchard@strath.ac.uk)).

## Job Description

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### Brief Outline of Job:

To undertake a specific research project/s under the general guidance of a research leader; to establish a personal research portfolio and plan research proposals, with assistance from senior colleagues as required; to engage where required in relevant teaching, professional and knowledge exchange activities; and input to administrative activities.

### Main Activities/Responsibilities:

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1. As part of a wider team lead development of a novel platform for quantum computing based on scalable arrays of neutral atoms, including characterisation and benchmarking of qubit and gate performance.
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2. As part of a wider research group or programme, develop research objectives and proposals for own or joint research and play a lead role in relation to a specific project/s or part of a broader project, with guidance from senior colleagues as required.

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  3. Plan and manage own workload, with guidance from colleagues as required.

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  4. Conduct individual and/or collaborative research, including determining appropriate research methods and contributing to the development of new research methods.

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  6. Write up research work for publication, individually or in collaboration with colleagues, and disseminate results as appropriate to the discipline by, for example, peer reviewed journal publications and presentation at conferences.

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  7. Join external networks to share information and ideas, inform the development of research objectives and to identify potential sources of funding.

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  8. Collaborate with colleagues on the development of knowledge exchange activities by, for example, participating in initiatives which establish research links with industry and influence public policy and the professions.

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  9. Where appropriate, supervise student projects, provide advice to students and contribute to teaching as required by, for example, running tutorials and supervising practical work.

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  10. Contribute in a developing capacity to Department/School, Faculty and/or University administrative and management functions and committees.

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  11. Engage in continuous professional development.
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## Person Specification

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### Educational and/or Professional Qualifications

(E=Essential, i.e. a candidate must meet all essential criteria to be considered for selection, D=Desirable)

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- E1 Good honours degree and PhD (or equivalent professional experience) in experimental atomic physics, quantum computing, or a closely related subject.
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- D1 Membership of relevant Chartered/professional bodies (including Higher Education Academy).
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### Experience

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- E2 Appropriate experience in atomic physics or quantum information research.
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- E3 Sufficient breadth or depth of knowledge in the relevant discipline/s to contribute to research programmes and to the development of research activities.
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- D2 Experience of relevant student supervision and teaching activities.
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- D3 Experience of knowledge exchange related activities.
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### Job Related Skills and Achievements

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- E4 Experience of working in atomic physics and/or experimental physics laboratories
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- E5 Developing ability to conduct individual research work, to disseminate results and to prepare research proposals.
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- E6 Ability to plan and organise own workload effectively.
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- E7 Ability to work within a team environment.
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## Personal Attributes

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E8 Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, with the ability to listen, engage and persuade, and to present complex information in an accessible way to a range of audiences.

E9 Evidence of independent motivation in the formulation and implementation of research activities

E10 Willingness to complement existing skill set with the other skills required for the successful completion of the project

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## Application Procedure

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Applicants should visit Strathclyde's vacancies portal and complete an online application form including the name of three referees who will be contacted without further permission, unless you indicate you would prefer otherwise. Applicants should also submit a Curriculum Vitae and a covering letter detailing the knowledge, skills and experience you think make you the right candidate for the job. Applicants should also complete the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form.

The University of Strathclyde encourages the recruitment of disabled and neurodivergent candidates. If you require any reasonable adjustments or support at any stage of the recruitment or application process, please contact us at [humanresources@strath.ac.uk](mailto:humanresources@strath.ac.uk), and we will be happy to assist you. This includes supporting you with the option to submit a paper application or a CV instead of completing the online application form.

## Interviews

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Formal interviews for this post will be held on week commencing Monday, 11 May 2026

The University is a Disability Confident Employer and operates a guaranteed interview scheme for disabled candidates who meet all the essential criteria for the post that they are applying for.

## Other Information

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Further information on the application process and working at Strathclyde can be found on our website (<http://www.strath.ac.uk/hr/workforus>).

Informal enquiries about the post can be directed to Prof. Jonathan Pritchard ([jonathan.pritchard@strath.ac.uk](mailto:jonathan.pritchard@strath.ac.uk)).

## Conditions of Employment

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Conditions of employment relating to the Research staff category can be found at: [Conditions of Employment](#).

## Rewards and Benefits

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Our comprehensive benefits package, including generous annual leave, family-friendly benefits, flexible work options, and a commitment to continuous learning, reflects our appreciation for the valuable contributions of our colleagues.

We understand that each staff member has unique priorities and lifestyles, so our diverse benefits ensure there is something for everyone, details of which can be found on our [Rewards and Benefits webpage](#).

- **Financial Rewards:** We provide attractive financial packages, including competitive salaries, relocation support for employees and a generous pension scheme, with university contributions of 14.5%.
- **Work-Life Balance:** We are dedicated to enhancing healthy work-life balance for our employees. We offer generous annual leave, an additional annual leave purchase option, flexible and agile work arrangements.

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- Annual Leave: Generous entitlement of 31 days, in addition to 11 public holidays and University closure days.
- Additional annual leave purchase: Option to request purchase of 2 weeks' additional annual leave per year.
- Flexible and agile working: The University provides flexible work arrangements. You can request arrangements that fit you and your role, such as hybrid, part-time, compressed hours, term-time, adjusted shifts, staggered hours. These requests can be made from the first day of your employment.
- **Family Friendly Benefits:** We offer a variety of enhanced family-friendly benefits to support our employees in balancing work and family responsibilities. These include Maternity Leave, Paternity/Maternity Support, Adoption Leave, Shared Parental Leave, Parental Leave, Carers Leave and support, Family Friendly Research & Scholarship Leave, and access to our on-campus nursery.
- **Career Development:** Our commitment to personal development is reflected in initiatives such as professional courses, subsidised educational programs, coaching and mentoring, leadership development, secondment opportunities, and access to our library.
- **Health & Wellbeing:** We place high importance on the safety, wellbeing, and health of all our staff and offer discounted Strathclyde Sport membership, an Employee Assistance Programme (EAP), Occupational Health Service, and Cycle to Work scheme.
- **Recognition Awards:** At Strathclyde, we place a strong emphasis on acknowledging and rewarding our staff's commitment and exceptional contributions. This is demonstrated through our Long-Service Awards and our Values-based Strathclyde Medals.

## Basic Disclosure

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This role requires the satisfactory outcome of a Basic Disclosure Scotland Check. The successful applicant will be asked to carry out a Basic Disclosure Scotland Check. Whether an outcome is satisfactory will be determined by the University.

## Pre-Placement Health Screening

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If you are offered a job with us, you'll be encouraged to let us know about any disability, medical condition, or neurodivergence you have by completing a confidential pre-placement health questionnaire. Completing the questionnaire is entirely voluntary but by doing so we can put in place the right support and make any reasonable adjustments before you start.

## Probation

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Where applicable, the successful applicant will be required to serve a 9 month probationary period.

## Pension

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The successful applicant will be eligible to join Universities' Superannuation Scheme. Further information regarding this scheme is available from [Payroll and Pensions](#).

## Relocation

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Where applicable, the University offers a relocation package to support new employees who meet the eligibility criteria. The relocation package is offered as a contribution towards costs incurred, and is designed to be flexible, allowing staff to use the financial support available in the way that will be most helpful to them. Further details are outlined in the [Relocation Policy](#).

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## Equality and Diversity

The University of Strathclyde is a socially progressive institution that strives to ensure equality of opportunity and celebrates the diversity of its student and staff community. Strathclyde is people-oriented and collaborative, offering a supportive and flexible working culture with a deep commitment to our [equality, diversity and inclusion charters, initiatives, groups and networks](#).

We strongly encourage applications from Black, Asian and minority ethnicity, women, LGBT+, disabled candidates and candidates from lower socio-economic groups and care-experienced backgrounds.

The University currently holds an [Athena Swan Silver award](#), recognising our commitment to support and transform gender equality within higher education and research.

## University Values

The University's Values capture what we're all about: who we are, what we believe in and what we stand for. [Our Values](#) have been derived from how we act and how we expect to be treated as part of Strathclyde.

In delivering **our People Strategy**, we will contribute, act, and make decisions guided by these values.

- **People-oriented:** committed to our staff and students, providing opportunities, and investing in their development.
- **Bold:** confident and challenging in what we do, and supportive of embracing appropriate and managed risk in our decision-making.
- **Innovative:** focused on discovering and applying knowledge with impact and encouraging creative thinking and new ideas.
- **Collaborative:** working together, with our colleagues and external partners, with integrity and in an open, respectful way.
- **Ambitious:** for our institution, staff and students as well as supporting the ambitions of our partners.



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