



**Job Title:** Research Technician

**Grade:** 5

**Salary:** £26,038 to £30,505 per annum, pro-rata if part-time

**Department:** Genetics, Genomics and Cancer Sciences

**Hours/Contract:** Full-time, or job share considered, fixed term contract until 31 December 2029

**Job Family:** Technical and Experimental

**Reference:** 11446

## Role Purpose

To maintain and manage all fly stocks generated and acquired during the project. To assist in the generation of new strains and in acquiring available stocks from stock centres. In addition, assist in the maintenance and management of the fly facility. To ensure the smooth running of the laboratory by providing assistance with the ordering and maintaining of laboratory supplies, maintaining and updating of reagent databases, including COSHH assessment.

## Main Duties and Responsibilities

- To perform specialised laboratory experiments encompassing behavioural, cellular and molecular techniques employing *Drosophila*. This includes carrying out crosses, measuring locomotor activity rhythm and sleep, and cellular and molecular biology experiments (using techniques such as, tissue and organ dissections, electrophysiology measurements, immunohistochemistry, confocal microscopy, DNA & RNA extraction, quantitative PCR, molecular cloning, Western blotting).
- To assist in the maintenance and management of the fly facility.
- To ensure the smooth and safe running of the laboratory by helping with the ordering and maintaining of laboratory supplies, maintaining and updating of reagent and COSHH databases and by observing and promoting good laboratory practise.
- To help with the supervision of members of the laboratory
- To interpret and analyse the data produced, and to present results at local, national and international meetings as required.
- To assist in the writing-up of results for publication in international peer-reviewed journals.
- To assist in the generation of new strains and in the acquisition of available stocks from stock centres.

## Internal and External Relationships

- To assist in the supervision of other team members, both research staff and students.
- To lead in the adoption and the implementation of best laboratory practise.
- To be proactive in communicating with the members of the wider team (including collaborators).
- To provide guidance on health and safety procedures.

## Planning and Organising





The successful candidate will have excellent organisation skills. They will be required to manage their time effectively and to deliver on the priorities of the project, balancing research and administrative duties.

They will:

- Prioritise tasks within agreed work schedules.
- Plan for specific aspects of research incorporating issues such as deadlines, project milestones and overall research aims.
- Carry out maintenance and managerial duties during times that best fit the experimental schedule.
- Be adaptable and flexible when required, to accommodate new developments and priorities.

## Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience

### Essential

- Technical or scientific education to ONC or NVQ level 3 (or equivalent). \*
- Knowledge of and experience with *Drosophila* maintenance and genetics. \*
- Knowledge of and experience with the two-electrode voltage clamp technique. \*
- Experience with dissection of flies' tissues and organs. \*
- Knowledge of and experience with immunohistochemistry and confocal microscopy. \*
- Knowledge of and experience with molecular biology techniques (DNA & RNA extraction, quantitative PCR, molecular cloning, Western blotting). \*
- Knowledge of and experience with the day-to-day running and organisation of a laboratory. \*
- Knowledge of and experience with health and safety procedures. \*

### Desirable

- Education up to PhD or equivalent qualification in a relevant subject (biological sciences).
- Experience in using CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing to manipulate specific genetic variants in flies.
- Knowledge of and experience with chronobiology and the biology of cryptochromes.
- Knowledge of and experience with magnetic field research.

## Skills, Abilities and Competencies

### Essential

- Good record keeping and methodical approach to working. \*
- Evidence of being able to troubleshoot research problems and adapt research protocols effectively. \*
- Competence and experience in placing orders and dealing with suppliers and contractors. \*
- Competence and experience in applying the current health and safety regulation. \*

### Desirable

- Evidence of output by publication in peer review journals





- Proven competence and experience in supervising junior members of the laboratory.
- Proven competence and experience in managing a fly facility.

***\*Criteria to be used in shortlisting candidates for interview***

**Reason for Fixed Term Contract**

The reason for the fixed term contract is stated in section 1.9 in the summary of contractual terms in your contract of employment.

**Criminal Declaration**

If you become an employee, you must inform your manager immediately, in writing, if you are the subject of any current or future police investigations/legal proceedings, which could result in a criminal offence, conviction, caution, bind-over or charges, or warnings.

**Supporting University Activities**

As a University of Leicester citizen, you are expected to support key university activities such as clearing, graduation ceremonies, student registration and recruitment open days. We expect all staff as citizens to work flexibly across the University if required.

**University Values**

**Inclusive** - We are diverse in our makeup and united in ambition. Our diversity is our strength and makes our community stronger.

**Inspiring** - We are passionate about inspiring individuals to succeed and realise their ambitions. We challenge our community to think differently, to get involved, and to constantly embrace new ideas.

**Impactful** - As Citizens of Change we will generate new ideas which deliver impact and empower our community

**Equity and Diversity**

We believe that equity, diversity and inclusion is integral to a successful modern workplace. By developing and implementing policies and systems that challenge stereotypes across all aspects of our work, we have a culture that recognises and values the diverse contributions of our staff which benefits everyone. Our strong values of inclusivity and equity support our efforts to attract a diverse range of high quality staff and students, and identify our University as a progressive and innovative workplace that mainstreams equity, diversity and inclusion.

