

**Job Title:** Research Technician - Sustainability  
**Grade:** 5  
**Salary:** £26,338 to £30,805 per annum, pro rata if part-time  
**Department:** Genetics, Genomics and Cancer Sciences  
**Hours/Contract:** Full-time, or job share considered, fixed term contract for 12 months from 1 September 2025  
**Job Family:** Technical and Experimental  
**Reference:** 11598

## Role Purpose

The post-holder will be based within the Becky Mayer Centre for Phage Research at the University of Leicester.

Laboratory-based research is essential for advancing society but it is also extremely energy and resource intensive. It's estimated that laboratories are responsible for around 2% of global plastic waste and use 3-10 times more energy per meter squared than a typical office. This project aims to improve the sustainability and efficiency of the Centre in line with the Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework (LEAF). You will work alongside researchers using bacteriophages, or phages, which are viruses that attack bacterial cells and offer the potential as new therapeutics as alternatives to antimicrobials. You will advise on and implement sustainability actions to reduce the Centre's carbon footprint while maintaining an environment that supports research quality.

## Main Duties and Responsibilities

- To perform specialised laboratory experiments to isolate and characterise phages, including carrying out bioinformatic analysis
- To integrate sustainability practices into the Centre labs and support the science in a climate friendly way using the LEAF Framework to maximise impact
- To set targets and track progress to enable improved sustainability
- To engage with stakeholders to broaden support for activities
- To accurately record, present and discuss experimental data with the PI
- To assist with preparation of data that may be subsequently used for publication in scientific papers, grant submissions and presentations at local, national, and international conferences.
- To produce and standardise protocols and assist with the development and validation of new web-based techniques to support the research work, under the guidance of the PI.
- To ensure the lab and subsequent lab work is in adherence to Health and Safety regulations
- Assist with any other lab duties as and when required





## Internal and External Relationships

- Daily contact with staff at all levels about the execution of duties
- Regular contact with supervisor to review and plan research activity
- Communication with other academics, staff, postdocs, PhD students, and technicians within the Centre laboratories and to liaise daily regarding availability of equipment and materials and to exchange information
- Liaise with stakeholders to explain progress and milestones

## Planning and Organising

- Plan and prioritise research objectives in consultation and under the direction of the Project Lead to meet deadlines
- Plan and conduct own research on a daily and weekly basis and in collaboration with other members of the group.
- Adapt daily and weekly plans to accommodate new developments

## Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience

### Essential

- Technical or Scientific education to ONC or NVQ3 level\*
- Knowledge of sustainability measures within a laboratory setting\*
- Evidence of a motivation to carry out sustainability assessments within a laboratory context
- Knowledge of the LEAF Framework\*
- Previous laboratory experience of microbiology\*
- Previous laboratory experience of molecular biology\*
- Knowledge and understanding of working with phages\*
- Experience in coding and of phage bioinformatic analysis\*
- Knowledge of the potential of phages as novel therapeutics\*
- Well-developed understanding of good laboratory practice (GLP) and Health and Safety regulations and procedures\*
- Maintenance of comprehensive and confidential records, and a methodical approach to working
- Evidence of promoting STEM subjects to others



## Desirable

- Specialist knowledge of microbial research field
- Experience of engaging with stakeholders
- Evidence of French and German skills to facilitate communication with French and German collaborator

## Skills, Abilities and Competencies

### Essential

- Good Laboratory and Microbiological skills\*
- Good IT skills to include experience in the use of Microsoft software\*
- Excellent analytical and problem-solving skills \*
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills \*
- Team player who can support the broader research group\*
- Ability to prioritise tasks within agreed work schedules\*

### Desirable

- A degree (BSc) or currently studying for a degree
- Evidence of continued personal development of subject expertise

***\*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 equality 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 equality, diversity and inclusion.

