

Job Title: Research Technician
Grade: 5
Salary: £26,707 - £31,236
Department: Molecular and Cell Biology
Hours/Contract: Full-time fixed-term contract.
Job Family: Teaching and Research
Reference: 13443

Role Purpose

The postholder will provide technical support for the day-to-day operation of the laboratory, assisting with protein expression and purification from recombinant systems, routine biochemical and biophysical assays, and sample preparation for cryo-electron microscopy (cryoEM) studies. The role will include maintenance of laboratory equipment and supplies, preparation of reagents and samples, data recording, and support for general laboratory organisation and research activities.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

The Research Assistant will be expected to support the research programme funded by the Wellcome Trust. Specifically, the Research Assistant will be expected to:

- Provide technical support for the day-to-day operation of the laboratory
 - Assist with recombinant protein expression and purification using bacterial, insect, or mammalian expression systems.
 - Prepare buffers, reagents, media, and samples required for biochemical, biophysical, and structural biology experiments.
 - Support routine biophysical characterization of protein samples and protein–protein interactions.
 - Assist with preparation and quality assessment of samples for cryo-electron microscopy (cryoEM) studies.
 - Maintain accurate laboratory records, databases, and experimental documentation.
 - Contribute to the maintenance, organisation, and upkeep of laboratory equipment and shared facilities.
 - Monitor laboratory consumables and assist with ordering and stock management.
 - Assist with routine data collection, organisation, and presentation.
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- Support laboratory members with general technical and organisational tasks as required.
 - Follow established laboratory protocols and health and safety procedures, including risk assessments and safe handling of biological and chemical materials.
 - Contribute to maintaining an effective and collaborative laboratory environment.

Internal and External Relationships





- Communicate and liaise with colleagues and collaborators involved in the above-mentioned research programme and other projects and the team is undertaking, on a regular basis to review and plan research activities.
- Communicate with Technical Managers and core technical support staff on a regular basis to discuss ongoing lab issues, health and safety matters, and future plans for the laboratory areas.
- Occasionally communicate and liaise with research collaborators, both nationally and internationally, under the instruction of your line manager.

Planning and Organising

- With guidance from the Primary Investigator, or equivalent, plan own work and prioritise research and project/laboratory activities on a regular basis, including co-ordinating resources and maintenance of samples and equipment.
- The post-holder will be required to effectively manage their time to deliver on the priorities of the research programme with the support of their line manager.
- Attend suitable training courses or equivalent and be proactive in terms of continued professional development.

Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience

Essential

- Technical or scientific education to ONC or NVQ3 level in Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Biological Sciences, or a related discipline
- Practical laboratory experience in molecular biology, biochemistry, or protein science techniques. *
- Experience with recombinant protein expression and/or protein purification techniques. *
- Experience maintaining accurate experimental records and documentation. *
- Ability to follow established protocols and work safely within a laboratory environment. *
- Good organisational skills and ability to manage routine technical tasks effectively. *
- Ability to work both independently and as part of a team.
- Good communication and interpersonal skills. *
- Competence in standard IT applications for data recording and analysis.

Desirable

- BSc degree (or equivalent qualification or experience) in Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Biological Sciences, or a related discipline
- MSc degree or additional technical training in a relevant biological science discipline.
- Experience with chromatography systems (e.g. ÄKTA/FPLC) and protein purification workflows.
- Experience with biophysical techniques used to study protein interactions.
- Experience preparing samples for structural biology or cryo-electron microscopy (cryoEM).
- Familiarity with cell culture or baculovirus/insect cell expression systems.
- Experience supporting shared laboratory equipment or facilities.
- Experience working in an academic research laboratory environment.
- Familiarity with health and safety procedures relevant to biological research laboratories.
- Experience assisting with stock management, ordering, or laboratory administration.





Skills, Abilities and Competencies

Essential

- Ability to perform laboratory techniques accurately and reliably following established protocols. *
- Good practical laboratory skills and attention to detail. *
- Ability to organise and prioritise workload effectively to meet deadlines.
- Ability to maintain accurate and clear experimental records. *
- Good problem-solving skills and ability to identify and report technical issues.
- Ability to work both independently and collaboratively within a research laboratory environment.
- Good verbal and written communication skills. *
- Ability to follow health and safety procedures and maintain good laboratory practice.
- Competence in the use of standard IT software for data handling, documentation, and communication. *
- Willingness to learn new techniques and undertake relevant training.
- Reliable, flexible, and proactive approach to supporting laboratory activities. *
- Ability to contribute positively to an inclusive and collaborative working environment. *

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

Criminal Declaration (DO NOT DELETE) and Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). (DELETE IF NOT REQUIRED)

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.

