



Job Title: Insect Colony Manager/Technician

Grade: 5

Salary: £26,707 to £31,236 per annum, pro-rata if part-time

Department: Genetics & Genome Biology, School of Biological and Biomedical Sciences

Hours/Contract: Full-time, part-time (0.571FTE, 20 hours per week), or job share considered, fixed term contract for 12 months

Job Family: Technical and Experimental

Reference: 12902

Role Purpose

To support a large research group working on circadian rhythms in insects under the supervision of Profs Charalambos Kyriacou and Ezio Rosato in the Department of Genetics & Genome Biology newly situated in the Hodgkin Building. Responsibilities will be mainly focused on supporting research projects focused on *Drosophila melanogaster* and the black soldier fly, *Hermetia illucens*.

The work will include molecular cloning, PCR, construct generation, western blotting, behavioural and statistical analyses and bioinformatics. In addition, the technician is expected to help out in general laboratory maintenance, media preparation, ordering, safety etc. The position is funded by UKRI and is part of a larger Marie-Curie Initial Training Network involving >15 laboratories and companies spread throughout Europe. There may be some liasing involved with other relevant research groups.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

- Maintenance of *Drosophila* and soldier fly stocks. Supporting the laboratory with preparation of reagents and media and providing support for ordering consumables. Maintenance and use of equipment and keeping documentation up to date eg COSHH, GM etc. Assisting with other lab duties as and when required
- Various types of experiments, molecular, behavioural and bioinformatic as directed by Prof Kyriacou. To accurately record, present and discuss experimental data with the PI and other members of the group in lab meetings
- To help supervise MSc and undergraduate projects
- To supervise Erasmus+ students during short term visits to the laboratory

Internal and External Relationships

- Daily contact with the research team including the line manager and lab members.
- To assist in the technical training of undergraduate and postgraduate students in key laboratory techniques.
- To attend laboratory meetings and complete mandatory training

Planning and Organising

Ability to plan own experiments and organise time effectively to meet deadlines





Attend training courses as reasonably required by line manager and to be proactive in terms of continued professional development.

Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience

Essential

- Technical or scientific education to ONC or NVQ level 3 (or equivalent)*
- Knowledge in laboratory safety issues*
- Previous laboratory experience including working with DNA and proteins*

Desirable

- Experience in handling Drosophila*
- Experience in microscopy*
- Bachelor’s degree in a biological science or a closely related discipline.*
- Implementing laboratory sustainability under the LEAF framework

Skills, Abilities and Competencies

Essential

- Understanding of Health and Safety regulations and procedures
- Computer literacy (Word, Excel, statistical packages)
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Good inter-personal skills
- Ability to work independently and interact well with team members

Desirable

- Good writing skills. Evidence of contributing to publications

****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 encouraged to support key university activities such as clearing, graduation ceremonies, student registration and recruitment open days. We encourage all staff as citizens to work flexibly across the University if required. If supporting these activities is likely to affect your workload, please speak to your line manager in the first instance





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

Freedom of Speech

The University is committed to upholding freedom of speech and academic freedom within the law throughout our recruitment processes. We ensure that all candidates are considered based on merit and suitability for the role, without regard to their lawful viewpoints or the expression of challenging or controversial ideas. Our recruitment policies and practices are designed to protect applicants from discrimination or adverse treatment on the basis of their opinions, and to foster an environment where open debate and diverse perspectives are valued as essential to our academic mission.

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.

