



Job Title: Research Technician
Grade: 4
Salary: £25,138 per annum, pro-rata if part-time
Department: Respiratory Sciences
Hours/Contract: Full-time or job share, fixed term contract for 4 months
Job Family: Teaching and Research
Reference: 10545

Role Purpose

For the past few years, our lab has been using a novel sampling method which uses facemasks modified with 3D-printed polyvinyl alcohol inserts to study exhaled breath samples. We are seeking out a highly motivated individual to assist in the processing and extraction of these face mask samples (FMS).

This role will involve working independently and as part of a wider team to support a large-scale FMS study. Your duties will include manufacture of face mask sampling strips, assembly of face masks, management and organisation of large numbers of samples, face mask processing and general technician laboratory work.

Resources Managed

Materials for facemask production and assembly

Main Duties and Responsibilities

- To work within appropriate Health and Safety regulations and standards to condition PVA filament, to use 3D printers to print mask sampling straps, to maintain 3D printers and to process face mask samples ready for molecular analysis
- To follow specified protocols for printing mask sampling straps (and alternative matrix designs as required) of appropriate quality and package to meet demand
- In accordance with training and specified requirements, assemble sampling straps into facemasks as package for sampling use to meet demand
- To follow specified protocols to process facemask samples for analysis by dissolving sampling matrices and performing nucleic acid extraction
- To record stock levels of components required for face mask assembly, assembled masks, sample receipt, processing of face mask samples and to maintain an up-to-date processing log. To request purchase of necessary consumables as required
- To prepare control materials for quality control checks in extraction techniques
- To assist in the production and development of the face mask sampling technique through preparation of alternative sampling matrices and facemask designs as instructed and by following protocols
- To help with the day to day running of the lab and maintaining a clean and safe environment for mask manufacture

Internal and External Relationships





- Weekly meetings with all members of the laboratory to discuss work carried out that week
- Regular contact with supervisor, co-investigators and others on the project for updates on project progression
- Communication with other members of the laboratory, including the co-ordination of shared laboratory equipment and resources
- Contact with external suppliers

Planning and Organising

- Plan and conduct your work, including co-ordination with other members of the laboratory for shared equipment and resources and to meet the demands of facemask production and processing
- Keep accurate records of sampling straps, other components for mask assembly, assembled masks, samples received and processed
- Adapt your work around new developments

Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience

Essential

- Some prior work experience of a generalist nature and a basic standard of numeracy and literacy
- NVQ 2 or equivalent
- Effective exchange of work related information
- Working knowledge of relevant health and safety policies and procedures.
- Understanding of the requirement for cleanliness and care in production of face mask sampling straps, face masks and for face mask processing.
- Understanding of Health and Safety

Desirable

- BTEC diploma, or equivalent

Skills, Abilities and Competencies

Essential

- Familiarity with facemask sampling and its applications
- Good understanding of Health and Safety
- IT literacy
- Maintaining accurate records
- Prior experience in use and maintenance of 3D printers for fabrication of PVA sampling straps





- Prior work experience assembling face masks for sampling
- Prior experience of facemask processing to prepare extracts for molecular analysis

****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.

NHS Research Governance

Where it is determined that the duties of this post for the purposes of research involve work with the NHS, it is necessary to ensure that the performance of the duties attached to the post are covered by NHS research governance arrangements and the appointee must comply with all such arrangements, which may include occupational health clearance and DBS clearance.

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.

