



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Technician in Bacteriology, Faculty of Biological Sciences



Salary: Grade 5 (£23,067 – £26,715 p.a. Pro Rata)

Reference: FBSFO1030

Closing date: 26 November 2019

Part time 40% FTE, Fixed-term for 12 months

We will consider flexible working arrangements

Research Technician in Bacteriology

Faculty of Biological Sciences

Are you an early career researcher looking for a challenge? Do you have a background in Bacteriology? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive Universities?

We are seeking a highly motivated person to provide technical research support to the research group of [Dr Alex O'Neill](#). You will work with academics and researchers, performing techniques and protocols in connection with an industrially-funded, research project that will explore the prevalence and nature of antibiotic resistance genes, found in the commensal microbiota of human skin. Time-permitting, we will also examine the ability of the isolated organisms, to produce antimicrobial compounds.

You should be educated to degree level, BTEC higher level or equivalent, or have equivalent experience. You will have experience of standard microbiology (culturing, susceptibility testing) and molecular biology techniques (e.g. cloning and PCR). Experience with natural product extraction would be desirable. You will be required to work well as part of a team and possess strong IT skills.

The University of Leeds and the Faculty of Biological Sciences are committed to providing equal opportunities for all and offer a range of family friendly policies. The University is a charter member of Athena SWAN (the national body that promotes gender equality in higher education), and the Faculty of Biological Sciences was reawarded a Bronze award in 2017. We are proud to be an inclusive Faculty that values all staff and are happy to consider job share applications and requests for flexible working arrangements from our employees. Our Athena SWAN [webpage](#) provides more information.

What does the role entail?

As a Research Technician your main duties will include:

- Assisting in the day-to-day running of the laboratory, including the care and maintenance of some laboratory equipment or machinery and ordering supplies;
- Liaising with academics and researchers to perform techniques and protocols as appropriate. These would include (but are not limited to) the following:



- Isolation, propagation and storage of bacterial isolates from human skin samples;
- Biochemical and PCR-based identification of bacterial species;
- Susceptibility testing to define antibiotic resistance profiles;
- Detection of strains possessing selective antibacterial activity, and characterization/ extraction of the antibiotic compounds responsible;
- Maintaining Health and Safety records and developing risk assessments for new and existing protocols;
- Maintaining good records and laboratory notebooks of work carried out, including providing clear understandable data to other members of the research group;
- Explaining laboratory procedures to new users and students within the research group;
- Providing flexible technical support to members of the research group based on their needs;
- Preparing, collating and presenting data in an understandable manner to members of the research group at regular group meetings.

These duties provide a framework for the role and should not be regarded as a definitive list. Other reasonable duties may be required consistent with the grade of the post.

What will you bring to the role?

As a research technician you will have:

- A Degree, BTEC higher level or equivalent or equivalent experience;
- Experience working in a microbiology lab, and performing isolation, propagation, and storage of cultures;
- Experience of working with staphylococci;
- Experience of working on projects that involve processing large numbers of samples;
- Experience of evaluating the activity of antimicrobial compounds;
- Familiarity with standard molecular biology techniques such as PCR;
- Experience of working in a laboratory environment, with the ability to perform technically demanding tasks with care and precision;
- Good organisational and time management skills, with the ability to work unsupervised and use your own initiative to meet deadlines;



- Good verbal and written communications skills, with the ability to clearly articulate and present information, ideas and analysis, modifying your approach to suit different audiences;
- Good IT skills, including MS Office software, with experience of record keeping.

You may also have:

- Previous experience with detecting microorganisms capable of producing antibacterial compounds;
- Previous experience with natural product extraction;
- RSci (Registered Scientist) or RSci Tech (Registered Science Technician) qualification.

How to apply

You can apply for this role online; more guidance can be found on our [How to Apply](#) information page. Applications should be submitted by **23:59** (UK time) on the advertised closing date.

Contact information

To explore the post further or for any queries, you may have, please contact:

[Dr Alex O'Neill, Associate Professor \(Research\)](#)

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 5600

Email: A.J.ONeill@leeds.ac.uk

[Carsten Zothner, Laboratory Area Coordinator \(Admin\)](#)

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 3087

Email: c.zothner@leeds.ac.uk



Additional information

Find out more about the [Faculty of Biological Sciences](#)

Find out more about our Research and associated facilities. <https://biologicalsciences.leeds.ac.uk/molecular-and-cellular-biology/staff/119/dr-alex-o-neill>

Working at Leeds

Find out more about the benefits of working at the University and what it is like to live and work in the Leeds area on our [Working at Leeds](#) information page.

Candidates with disabilities

Information for candidates with disabilities, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found on our [Accessibility](#) information page or by getting in touch with us at disclosure@leeds.ac.uk.

Criminal record information

Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

A criminal record check is not required for this position. However, all applicants will be required to declare if they have any 'unspent' criminal offences, including those pending.

Any offer of appointment will be in accordance with our Criminal Records policy. You can find out more about the required checks and declarations in our [Criminal Records](#) information page.

