



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Technician in Plant Science, Faculty of Biological Sciences



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

Reference: FBSFO1138

Fixed-term for 36 months

We will consider job share or flexible working arrangements

Research Technician in Plant Science

Faculty of Biological Sciences

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

Regulating gene expression to produce the appropriate level of each protein, in response to an ever-changing environment, is a particular challenge for sessile organisms such as plants. Discovering the underpinning regulatory mechanisms will ultimately allow us to enhance and manipulate crop growth and productivity. Our research team studies mechanisms that regulate gene expression in plants, acting at different points from transcription, through RNA processing to translation. Working with and supporting a postdoctoral fellow, you will use molecular biology techniques to construct test plasmids, transform them into *Arabidopsis*, genotype the resulting transgenic plants and study them, at molecular and phenotypic levels.

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 and the testing room, 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:
 - General molecular biology techniques e.g. PCR, cloning
 - Routine care of plants in glasshouses
 - Transformation of *Arabidopsis* plants
 - RNA and DNA extraction from plants, genotyping and genetics



- Phenotypic and biochemical analysis of Arabidopsis
- Preparation of media and reagents
- Implementation and modification of published protocols and development of new ones.
- 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 and carrying out inductions, as appropriate;
- 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 in Plant Science you will have:

- A Degree, BTEC higher level or equivalent or equivalent experience;
- Experience in Arabidopsis research, molecular biology or biochemistry (this can include a period in Further or Higher Education);
- 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:

- 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:

[Jennie Hibbard](#), Laboratory Area Coordinator

Tel: +44(0)113 343 3035

Email J.K.Hibbard@leeds.ac.uk

Or

[Brendan Davies](#), Professor of Plant Development

Tel: +44(0)113 343 3146

Email B.H.Davies@leeds.ac.uk

Additional information

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

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 required checks and declarations in our [Criminal Records](#) information page.

