



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

**FAAM Support Engineer, National Centre For Atmospheric Science,
Faculty of Environment**



Salary: Grade 6 (£27,511 – £32,817 p.a.)

Reference: ENVEE1431

Please note this post is based in Cranfield

We will consider job share / flexible working arrangements

FAAM Support Engineer

National Centre for Atmospheric Science (NCAS), School of Earth and Environment, Faculty of Environment

Would you like to join a world leading national science and technology research centre dedicated to atmospheric science? Do you hold a degree or equivalent in a science, earth science or engineering subject, with strong technical skills and experience of supporting technical facilities or instrument systems or aircraft observational platforms?

The FAAM (Facility for Airborne Atmospheric Measurements) large atmospheric research aircraft (ARA) is a unique, highly modified 4- engine jet aircraft adapted to carry a highly specialised science payload. The payload is extensively reliant on state-of-the-art scientific instrumentation, often uniquely customised for use on the FAAM aircraft. All the science instrumentation and electronics is certified under CAA regulations to be safe for aviation applications in a safety-critical environment.

The FAAM Support Engineer has a varied role, encompassing daily, routine activities around the aircraft and facility both at its home base and at locations around the world. The post holder will support care of the scientific equipment, including pre-flight setup and post-flight care, and will help support the FAAM team and visiting scientists around the facility. The role will require working closely with the aircraft's engineering support provider, ensuring that activities of each are well planned in tandem. An important part of the role will be monitoring aircraft tool control and safe working procedures on and around the aircraft, for both FAAM and visitors.

The Support Engineer will be part of the team providing detachment logistics and technical support and will help manage the aircraft instrument fit as required by research projects. The engineer's technical understanding will also help govern the installation of science systems on the aircraft.

The Support Engineer will use a range of technical skills to help with instrument maintenance, fault diagnosis, instrument assembly, small-scale bespoke manufacturing and supporting field-trials.



What does the role entail?

As FAAM Support Engineer, your main duties will include:

- Working as part of a team to supply technical support for the Facility's scientific systems, on the aircraft, in the laboratory and in the field;
- Supporting the maintenance, calibration and configuration of scientific systems, which includes working with other FAAM staff, visitors and aircraft engineering support providers to ensure that needed science equipment is fitted to the aircraft for every flight and that the correct processes are followed;
- Conducting science pre-flight setup for FAAM missions, diagnose and fix faults and provide post-flight support;
- Working as part of a logistics team to support scientific campaigns away from the home base;
- With experience, assuming responsibility for the serviceability and maintenance of key science systems;
- Managing spares and key supplies;
- Maintaining safe systems of work around the aircraft and in FAAM's laboratories, including good tool control and safe working practices for visiting scientists;
- Travelling on detached duty, fulfilling the above roles on science projects at home or on projects elsewhere in the UK or potentially overseas for typically 8 weeks a year, including the potential to fly as science crew if required;
- Documenting technical procedures and maintain an expert understanding of system day-to-day operation, installation and maintenance procedures;
- Providing a good liaison between FAAM and contractor staff representing the aircraft operator and maintenance and engineering support provider, in communicating the day to day requirements of all parties on both flying days and during periods of ground work and maintenance.

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 the FAAM Support Engineer, you will have:

- A degree or equivalent in a science, earth science or engineering subject;



- Experience of supporting technical facilities or instrument systems or aircraft observational platforms, undertaking technical work as part of a multidisciplinary team;
- A good understanding of the technical aspects of mechanical and electrical installation of science systems that could be applied to a research aircraft environment, techniques used, and risks and hazards;
- Proven hands-on technical skills;
- Evidence of a methodical and persistent approach to problem solving with complex technical equipment;
- An understanding of safe working systems in a research, aircraft or laboratory environment, experience maintaining facilities and working procedures to a high standard of safety;
- Excellent people skills, good written and especially verbal communication skills and experience of communicating with different audiences;
- Relevant experience of the logistics necessary to support a research facility operating in the UK and overseas;
- Personal resilience, organisational skills and the ability to remain calm under pressure;
- A flexible, approachable personality, with a willingness to help;
- You must be medically and physically fit to spend time in an aircraft and on overseas detachments.

You may also have:

- An understanding of meteorological processes and forecasting.

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.

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

Mr Stephen Devereau, FAAM Science Upgrade Manager

Email: s.c.devereau@leeds.ac.uk



Additional information

Find out more about the [National Centre for Atmospheric Science](#).

Find out more about the [Faculty of Environment](#).

Find out more about [Athena Swan](#) in the Faculty.

A diverse workforce

The Faculty of Environment has received a prestigious Athena SWAN silver award from [Advance HE](#), the national body that promotes equality in the higher education sector. This award represents the combined efforts of all schools in the Faculty and shows the positive actions we have taken to ensure that our policies, processes and ethos all promote an equal and inclusive environment for work and study.

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.

