



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

## CANDIDATE BRIEF

**Research Technician – National Pig Centre, Faculty of Biological Sciences (2 posts available)**



**Salary: Grade 3 (£18,202– £19,623 p.a.)**

**Reference: FBSFO1151**

**Available on a fixed-term basis, post 1 for 2 years and post 2 for 6 months (linked to external funding)**

**We will consider flexible working arrangements**

## Research Technician - National Pig Centre Faculty of Biological Sciences

**Are you looking for a career in animal science? Would you like to work in a team based at the National Pig Centre at one of the UK's leading research intensive Universities?**

The Faculty of Biological Sciences requires two research technicians to work on their pig research projects, based at the new state-of-the-art [National Pig Centre](#) at Spen Farm. The National Pig Centre is the UK's largest and most advanced facility for research into pig nutrition, behaviour, health & welfare and production systems. The National Pig Centre co-develops research programmes in collaboration with academic and industry partners to address current agricultural challenges. You will work as part of a research team and will be involved in pig husbandry, data collection and monitoring of indoor and outdoor research trials and administrative duties relevant to the post.

You should be educated to GCSE level, or equivalent, with a desire to work with animals and an interest in farming and the countryside. You should also have the ability to complete technically challenging tasks, with care and precision.

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 awarded a Silver award in 2020. 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:

- Performing accurate data collection on the farm, such as: feed and animal weights; temperatures; animal health monitoring and other information as required; responding to any issues as and when they arise;
- The day-to-day care of indoor and outdoor trial pigs as and when required;
- Carrying out routine pig husbandry and care, including animal health monitoring, mucking/washing out, feeding and watering;
- General use and maintenance of feeding and weighing equipment;
- Lifting heavy objects such as sacks of feed, animals and equipment;
- Reporting any requirement for repairs and maintenance of the ancillary equipment and machinery to the Pig Unit Manager;
- Working collaboratively with other members of the Research and Production teams, ensuring that all work is completed efficiently and to the highest standards;
- Assisting academic staff, graduates and students in local procedures;
- Willingness to work outdoors in all weathers as and when required, including weekend and flexible working\*;
- Occasional use of farm and/or hire vehicles for university business.

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:

- 5 GCSE passes including Mathematics and English or equivalent qualifications;
- The ability to complete technically challenging tasks with care and precision;
- The ability to perform physically demanding tasks, including lifting heavy objects such as feed, animals and machinery;
- Good organisational and time management skills, with the ability to meet deadlines;





- The ability to work effectively either as part of a team or lone working;
- Good IT skills, including MS Office software, with experience of record keeping;
- A valid driving license which enables you to drive vehicles owned or hired by the University of Leeds for farm business on UK roads.\*\*

You may also have:

- Experience or interest in working with animals or in a farm environment;
- Ability to operate farm machinery;
- Experience with Microsoft Access;
- RSci (Registered Scientist) or RSci Tech (Registered Science Technician);
- Experience in animal research (this can include a period in Further or Higher Education).

### Notes:

*You may not keep pigs or reside on premises where pigs are kept (other than University of Leeds Farms) whilst holding this post. You must refrain from consuming any pig-derived products on the University Farm site or bringing such products to the site.*

*\*Please note this post will require some weekend work.*

*\*\*Current University of Leeds insurance criteria require any driver to be over the age of 21 years and hold a full clean licence which enables them to drive the required vehicle on UK roads.*

## 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](#), Area Coordinator



Tel: +44 (0)113 343 3035

Email: [j.k.hibbard@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:j.k.hibbard@leeds.ac.uk)

*'Please note: If you are not a British or Irish citizen, from 1 January 2021 you will require permission to work in the UK. This will normally be in the form of a visa but, if you are an EEA/Swiss citizen and resident in the UK before 31 December 2020, this may be your passport or status under the EU Settlement Scheme.'*

## 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](mailto:disclosure@leeds.ac.uk).

### Security checks

This post may be subject to appropriate security checks being carried out with your permission by a third party company.

## Criminal record information

### Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975

This post requires a standard criminal record check from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), and any equivalent overseas authorities where relevant. The successful candidate will be required to give consent for the University to check their criminal record status. All applicants are required to make a self-declaration where applicable.

Any offer of appointment will be subject to the University being satisfied with the outcome of these checks, in accordance with our Criminal Records policy. You can



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

