



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

**FAAM Technical Co-ordinator, FAAM Airborne Laboratory,
National Centre for Atmospheric Science, Faculty of Environment**



Salary: Grade 8 (£42,149 - £50,296 p.a.)

Reference: ENVJS1004

Fixed term until March 2026 due to funding

The post will be employed by the University of Leeds and will be based within the FAAM Airborne Laboratory team on the campus of Cranfield University in Bedfordshire

We will consider job share / flexible working arrangements

FAAM Technical Co-ordinator

FAAM Airborne Laboratory, National Centre for Atmospheric Science, School of Earth and Environment, Faculty of Environment

Would you like to work with a unique flying science laboratory? Do you have experience of leading technical or engineering development? Do you have either a degree in a numerate subject, or equivalent experience working in a technical environment? Are you up for the challenge of helping to deliver a unique flying observatory to science field projects around the world?

The FAAM Airborne Laboratory is a unique, highly modified 4-engine jet aircraft adapted to carry a payload of scientific instrumentation to observe the atmosphere. The payload is extensively reliant on state-of-the-art scientific instrumentation, often uniquely customised for use on the FAAM aircraft. As Technical Co-ordinator you will set standards for the development and management of science and support equipment on board the FAAM research aircraft. You will be the central point of contact for management of technical enquiries at FAAM, helping us to shape the organisation's priorities to meet the needs of scientific users as well as the stakeholder organisations who support the operation of FAAM and the design of aircraft and science systems.

You will be an organised and methodical individual, adept at communicating technical details and information, experienced at assimilating complex information and making effective decisions, and capable of securing the resources needed to implement them. You will develop and maintain a comprehensive technical repository of information, and develop excellent working relationships with different engineering and science specialists.

You'll also have the opportunity to fly on board aircraft science missions, using your skills and experience to deliver science missions and contribute to field projects, and using the understanding that you will develop of FAAM's operation to improve working practices and help set high standards.

The FAAM Airborne Laboratory is a national research facility dedicated to the advancement of atmospheric science, managed by the National Centre for Atmospheric Science and funded by the Natural Environment Research Council.



What does the role entail?

As a FAAM Technical Co-ordinator your main duties will include:

- Manage aircraft science modifications, equipment installations, maintenance periods and modification schedules. This includes working closely with FAAM Operations and external project teams, and you will be supported by the aircraft's Maintenance Organisation, BAE Systems representative and Operator.
- Acting as the first point of contact at FAAM for any requests for technical feasibility work, maintenance or modifications, co-ordinating such requests with any external projects or other FAAM budget-holders as required;
- Establishing and maintaining effective standards for the safe and effective management of aircraft science equipment, ensuring that appropriate quality systems are in place for technical aspects of FAAM work, including provision of training and training materials to FAAM and university staff;
- Leading the development and documentation of FAAM's technical procedures and processes;
- Acting as a local quality champion as FAAM seeks ISO 9000 certification;
- Undertaking day-to-day FAAM duties including taking part in FAAM campaigns, ensuring that all aircraft and scientific instrument technical requirements are met, and that pre- and post-flight procedures are carried out effectively;
- Line managing two staff within the FAAM Technical Team;
- Supporting instrument science from our UK base at Cranfield University as well as UK and overseas detachments (typically 2-3 such detachments, of 3-4 weeks each, travel/COVID-19 restrictions permitting).

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 FAAM Technical Co-ordinator you will have:

- A degree in a numerate subject, or equivalent technical experience;
- Experience leading and working in teams of technical specialists;
- Experience in managing engineering systems/design processes, or technical projects;
- Experience evaluating and managing risk in a scientific or industrial environment;
- An ability to quickly grasp complex technical concepts and translate into easily understandable documentation;
- Willingness to work on board the FAAM research aircraft (essential requirement of this post). Candidates must be able to move through a typical aircraft cabin, be able to use a headset to communicate and use a computer to interpret data on board the aircraft.

You may also have:

- Experience of ISO 9000 Quality Management processes;
- Experience of working in aviation or another safety critical environment;
- Understanding of IT hardware and control systems;
- A Project Management 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.

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.

Contact information

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

[Alan Woolley](#), Head of the FAAM Airborne Laboratory

Email: alan.woolley@faam.ac.uk



Additional information about the National Centre for Atmospheric Science

Find out more about the [National Centre for Atmospheric Science](#) and [its relationship with the School of Earth and Environment](#)

Find out more about the [Facility for Airborne Atmospheric Measurements](#)

Find out more about the [Atmospheric Measurement and Observation Facility](#)

Find out more about the [School of Earth and Environment](#)

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

Find out more about our [Research and associated facilities](#)

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

A diverse workforce

As an international research-intensive university, we welcome students and staff from all walks of life and from across the world. We foster an inclusive environment where all can flourish and prosper, and we are proud of our strong commitment to student education. Within the Faculty of Environment we are dedicated to diversifying our community and we welcome the unique contributions that individuals can bring, and particularly encourage applications from, but not limited to Black, Asian and ethnically diverse people; people who identify as LGBT+; and people with disabilities. Candidates will always be selected based on merit and ability.

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.



NCAS is committed to proactively encouraging an environment where diversity is celebrated and everyone is treated fairly, regardless of gender, gender identity, disability, ethnic origin, religion or belief, sexual orientation, marital or transgender status, age, or nationality.

Applications from under-represented groups in science research and administration are especially encouraged.

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 hr@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.

