



**UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS**

## **CANDIDATE BRIEF**

**Technical Manager,  
Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences**



**Salary: Grade 7 (£37,099 – £44,263 pro rata p.a.)**

**Reference: EPSPA1109**

**Closing date: Sunday 21 April 2024**

**Part-time, 18.75 hours per week**

**Fixed-term until 31 March 2027**

**We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements**



## Technical Manager, School of Physics and Astronomy.

**Would you like to help people in developing countries develop practical skills in radio astronomy? Do you have experience of radio antenna systems? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research-intensive Universities?**

We are looking for someone to manage and help deliver the technical training to people in African countries that are part of the world's next generation radio telescope project, the Square Kilometre Array (SKA, [www.skatelescope.org](http://www.skatelescope.org)). This post is part of the Development in Africa with Radio Astronomy (DARA, [www.dara-project.org](http://www.dara-project.org)) funded by the UKRI's International Science Partnerships Fund.

The training of 60 students per year will take place at the Hartebeesthoek Radio Astronomy Observatory (HartRAO) in South Africa and the Ghana Radio Astronomy Observatory (GRAO) in Ghana. The South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO) are also facilitating the provision of two-element training interferometers in each of eight African SKA partner countries that will be used to develop local training in skills in radio astronomy and potential satellite downlink.

Holding a PhD (or have submitted your thesis before taking up the role) in technical radio astronomy, you will have experience of delivering training in topics related to radio astronomy and/or antenna systems. It is anticipated that you will attend three 2-week events per year in Africa.

### What does the role entail?

As a Technical Manager, your main duties will include:

- Leading the DARA work package on technical training in radio astronomy;
- Preparing and leading the technical training programme during the two-week training events;
- Acting as the main facilitator of the hands-on training sessions on the ground at HartRAO and GRAO;
- Working with local teams to develop the practical training experience at HartRAO and GRAO;



- Working with SARAO and local teams on the design, implementation, installation and operation of the two-element interferometers;
- Working with SARAO and local teams to develop the training potential for radio astronomy, and potentially satellite downlink, of the two-element interferometers as they are deployed;
- Generating, testing and pursuing independent ideas where appropriate;
- Developing plans and proposals and contributing to setting the direction of the wider DARA project and team including helping with the preparation of proposals for funding in collaboration with colleagues when required;
- Preparing reports for the DARA project team when required;
- Working both independently and also as part of a larger team of researchers, engaging in knowledge-transfer activities where appropriate and feasible.

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 Technical Manager, you will have:

- A PhD (or have submitted your thesis before taking up the role) in technical radio astronomy;
- A strong background in electronic engineering;
- Significant experience with antenna systems;
- Experience of delivering training in topics related to radio astronomy and/or antenna systems;
- The ability to travel and work in Africa;
- The ability to work independently in the field using initiative to make key decisions;
- A proven ability to work well both individually and in a team;
- Excellent organisational and time management skills, with a proven ability to prioritise workloads to meet tight deadlines;
- Excellent communication skills, including written, verbal and presentational.

You may also have:

- Experience of working in Africa.



## 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:

[Professor Melvin Hoare](#), Professor of Astrophysics and DARA Principal Investigator

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 3864

Email: [M.G.Hoare@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:M.G.Hoare@leeds.ac.uk)

## Additional information

### Faculty and School Information

Further information is available on the research and teaching activities of the [Faculty of Engineering & Physical Sciences](#), and the [School of Physics and Astronomy](#).

### 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 Engineering and Physical Sciences 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 Engineering and Physical Sciences are proud to have been awarded the Athena SWAN [Silver](#) Award from the Equality Challenge Unit, the national body that promotes equality in the higher education sector. Our [equality and inclusion webpage](#) provides more information.





## **Working at Leeds**

We are a campus-based community and regular interaction with campus is an expectation of all roles in line with academic and service needs and the requirements of the role. We are also open to discussing flexible working arrangements. To find out more about the benefits of working at the University and what it is like to live and work in the Leeds area visit our [Working at Leeds](#) information page.

## **Information for disabled candidates**

Information for disabled candidates, 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](mailto: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 page.

