



**UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS**

## **CANDIDATE BRIEF**

**Research Assistant in Microbiology, School of Food Science & Nutrition**



**Salary: Grade 6 (£30,487 – £36,024 p.a. depending on experience)**

**Reporting to: Dr Anthony Buckley**

**Reference: ENVFS1104**

**Fixed term for 6 months from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to complete specific time limited work.**

**Location: University of Leeds campus**

**‘We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements.’**

# Research Assistant in Microbiology

## Microbiome & Nutritional Sciences Group

### Food Science & Nutrition

Do you have experience in using microbiology techniques and technologies? Are you looking for your next challenge? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research-intensive Universities?

You will join a laboratory engaged in diverse aspects of research on nutrition-microbiota interactions, with emphasis on prebiotics. You will support a project using a novel *in vitro* model system (MiGut) developed at Leeds to assess the effects of fibre prebiotics on the human gut microbiota. This will involve working with Industry, taking microbial measurements, and working under anaerobic conditions. You will be responsible for the day-to-day organisation, planning and execution of experimental work, data entry and integrity, data analysis and reporting. You will work within the experienced and multidisciplinary Microbiome & Nutritional Sciences Group.

You will have laboratory experience, a keen interest in gut microbiology, and will be well organised. Experience working with *in vitro* models and molecular microbiology is required. You will be encouraged to develop your initiative and independence, and will have to opportunity to undertake training and career development offered by the University of Leeds.

## What does the role entail?

As a Research Assistant, your main duties will include:

- Contributing to a successful programme of investigation, managing individual components of the project from planning and development to dissemination of findings within set timeframes;
- Culture, enumeration and quantification of key microbial populations in accordance with protocols, guidance and regulations;
- Running *in vitro* gut model experiments;
- Analysing metabolite data;
- Writing reports, undertaking literature reviews and preparing papers for publication, with guidance as necessary;



- Working both independently and as part of a larger team of researchers and stakeholders;
- Supporting research activities, including contributing to research results and outputs and to the generation of independent and original ideas, ensuring a successful programme of investigation;
- Collating and analysing data to inform the direction and progression of the research project;
- Participating in the research group and presenting research output where appropriate;
- Contributing to the research culture of the School, where appropriate;
- Continually updating your knowledge, understanding and skills in the research field.

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 Assistant you will have:

- An undergraduate or masters degree in Microbiology or a closely allied discipline, which demonstrates the ability to create and disseminate knowledge;
- Experience of using microbiology techniques and technologies;
- Experience of analysing gut microbiota using molecular techniques, such as quantitative PCR and Next-generation sequencing technologies;
- Experience of laboratory work with stool samples;
- Good interpersonal and communication skills, both written and verbal and the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of stakeholders;
- Well-developed analytical skills;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines;
- A proven ability to work well both individually and in a team;
- The ability to work unsupervised and to use your own initiative.

You may also have:



- A PhD in a Microbiology or a closely allied discipline or be close to submission;
- A previous record of producing research reports/publications;
- Experience of using in vitro gut models;
- Experience of mentoring others.

## 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:

**Dr Anthony Buckley, Associate Professor in Gut Microbiology**

Email: [A.Buckley1@Leeds.ac.uk](mailto:A.Buckley1@Leeds.ac.uk)

## Additional information

### A diverse workforce

The Faculty of Environment is 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. You can find out more on our [equality and inclusion](#) information page.

### 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).



## 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.

