



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Technician in Biology, Faculty of Biological Sciences



Salary: Grade 4 (£23,700 - £25,138 p.a.)

Reference: FBSBY1195

Available on a fixed-term basis until 30 August 2024 (to complete specific time limited work)

We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements

Research Technician in Biology, Faculty of Biological Sciences

Do you have a background in biology or plant sciences with an interest in plant parasitic nematology? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive Universities?

The University of Leeds is one of the top 75 universities in the world. We have a truly global community, with more than 39,000 students from 170 different countries and over 9,000 staff of 100 different nationalities. Established in 1904, we have a strong tradition of academic excellence, reflected in first-class student education, along with world-leading research that has a real impact around the globe.

The role will involve setting up glasshouse trials to determine the putative effects of various reagents on the biology of plant parasitic nematodes. Cultures of plant parasitic nematodes will have to be maintained to provide starting material to infect glasshouse trials. Nematodes will need to be stained or recovered from the plants. The plants and nematodes will have to be assessed for the effect of the different treatments. Results must be electronically recorded.

You should be educated to A level/ BTEC level or equivalent, with particular knowledge and skills in general plant housekeeping. You may also have glasshouse experience, laboratory experience, and practical experience in microscopy or tissue culture.

What we offer in return

- 26 days holiday plus approx. 16 Bank Holidays/days that the University is closed by custom (including Christmas).
- Generous pension scheme plus life assurance.
- Health and Wellbeing: Discounted staff membership options at The Edge, our state-of-the-art Campus gym, with a pool, sauna, climbing wall, cycle circuit, and sports halls.
- Personal Development: Access to courses run by our Organisational Development & Professional Learning team.
- Access to on-site childcare, shopping discounts and travel schemes are also available.

And much more!



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:

- Assisting in the day-to-day running of the laboratory, including the care and maintenance of some laboratory equipment or machinery and ordering supplies;
- Explaining laboratory procedures to new users and students within the research group;
- Carrying out routine maintenance checks and report faults;
- Managing and prioritise own day to day workload to ensure tasks are completed in a timely manner;
- Maintaining good records and laboratory notebooks of work carried out, including providing clear understandable data to other members of the research group where necessary;
- Attending regular meetings with the supervisor to discuss progress;
- Liaising with academics and researchers to perform techniques and protocols as appropriate. These would include (but are not limited to) the following:
 - Setting up, running and maintaining glasshouse trials
 - Maintaining biological stocks (including populations of plant parasitic nematodes)
 - General glasshouse upkeep
 - Accurately recording data
- Setting up and conducting simple experiments for the use of the laboratory group;
- Providing verbal and written explanations to new Undergraduate and Post Graduate students joining the research group who may be working on similar techniques ensuring their understanding of the need for safe working in the laboratory;



- Maintaining health and safety records and supporting the production of risk assessments for new and existing protocols;
- Liaising with other members of the Faculty and Technical Services Team on Health and Safety matters;

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:

- Educated to A level, BTEC or equivalent or equivalent experience;
- Laboratory or glasshouse experience (this can include a period in Further or Higher Education.);
- Experience of working in a biological sciences discipline related to plant sciences, nematology or applied biology (this can include a period in Further or Higher Education);
- Good verbal and written communications skills, with the ability to clearly articulate and present information, modifying your approach to suit different audiences;
- The ability to work accurately;
- The ability to maintain up to date records;
- Good organisational and time management skills, with the ability to work unsupervised and use your own initiative to meet deadlines;
- Good IT skills, including MS Office software, with experience of record keeping;
- The ability to perform physically demanding tasks, e.g. transport laboratory and glasshouse supplies, compost, laboratory equipment, gas cylinders and scientific waste between buildings with knowledge of safe manual handling techniques
- Willingness to develop and learn new skills.

You may also have:

- Previous experience with techniques related to plant nematology;
- Experience of setting up, maintaining or running glasshouse trials.
- RSci (Registered Scientist) or RSci Tech (Registered Science Technician).



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:

[P.E. Urwin, Professor](#)

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 2909

Email: p.e.urwin@leeds.ac.uk

[C.J. Lilley](#)

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 2900

Email: c.j.lilley@leeds.ac.uk

Please note: If you are not a British or Irish citizen, 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, this may be your status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

Additional information

At the University of Leeds, we are committed to providing a culture of inclusion, respect and equity of opportunity that attracts, supports, and retains the best students and staff from all backgrounds. Whatever role we recruit for we are always striving to increase the diversity of our community, which each individual helps enrich and cultivate. We particularly encourage applications from, but not limited to Black, Asian, people who belong to a minority ethnic community; people who identify as LGBT+; and disabled people. Candidates will always be selected based on merit and ability.

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.

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 page.

