



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Support Officer in Plant Protein Extraction and Characterization, School of Food Science & Nutrition



Salary: Grade 5 (£26,444 – £30,487 p.a. depending on experience)

Reporting to: Dr Alan Javier Hernandez Alvarez

Reference: ENVFS1117

Fixed term for 14 months from 1st September 2024 to complete specific time limited work

Location: University Campus (with scope for hybrid working)

We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements

Overview of the Role

Are you an exceptional graduate looking for an exciting challenge? Are you enthusiastic, well organised and versatile, with the ability to support research in a collaborative research team? Do you want to use your food science laboratory skills and experience to help our academic staff deliver an excellent research experience?

We are seeking a Research Support Officer to join our team based at the School of Food Science and Nutrition working on the Canada-UK: Plant-based Protein Innovation funded Innovate UK project. This bilateral consortium aims to improve region-specific agronomy traits of lupin production, the crop's direct utilisation in the form of a wide range of ingredients (proteins, lipids, fibres) and the application of these ingredients into a region specific (North America and UK/Europe) food product portfolio.

As a Research Support Officer you will characterize a range of plant protein lupin ingredients with a wide range of biochemical, chromatographic and enzymatic techniques. You will also be actively maintaining communications relevant to the research activities, maintaining standard operating procedures (SOPs) and risk assessments for the project, keeping accurate records of all activities and periodic reports for the project team with the supervision from researchers on the project.

You will have experience of working within a research or academic administrative environment, alongside BSc in a relevant subject. You will also have good organisational and communication skills, and the ability to work on your own initiative and as part of a team.

Main duties and responsibilities

- Producing plant protein ingredients by means of different extraction methods;
- Performing assays to assess the nutritional, antinutritional and techno functional properties of lupin ingredients;
- Performing protein digestibility assessments of lupin ingredients;
- Preparing reports for laboratory work, materials and protocols as required, and preparing project progress updates and feedback in a timely manner;
- Liaising with research team members, ensuring excellent communication;



- Providing health and safety and data security inductions and training for new members;
- Contributing to the health and safety assessment of the research team as required, including COSHH, SOPs, data and risk assessments;
- Working independently and also as part of a larger team of researchers, engaging in knowledge-transfer activities where appropriate and feasible;
- Continually updating your knowledge, understanding and skills in the field in which you work.

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.

Qualifications and skills

Essential

- An undergraduate degree in Food Science, Food Biochemistry or Food Biotechnology or a relevant field, or equivalent relevant experience;
- An interest in producing plant protein ingredients;
- Strong analytical skills, with experience in the following methods: protein determination, sds-page, solubility, gelling properties, enzymatic hydrolysis, nutritional and anti-nutritional assessment;
- Working experience within a research or teaching environment;
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, including the ability to maintain strong working relationships with colleagues at all levels;
- Well-developed writing skills and a proven ability to produce reports of a high standard;
- Experience of working proactively and effectively, both independently and as part of a team;
- Excellent organisational skills, with a proven ability to prioritise and plan your work independently to tight deadlines, and to manage conflicting priorities;
- Excellent IT and administration skills, including a high level of proficiency in using Microsoft Office suite (Word, Outlook, Excel);
- A willingness to develop within the role, proactively identifying appropriate training in personal and professional development.



Desirable

- A postgraduate degree in a relevant subject i.e. Food Science, Food Biochemistry or Food Biotechnology; or equivalent relevant experience;
- Experience in an administrative role including health and safety management within a UK Higher Education.

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 Alan Javier Hernandez Alvarez, Lecturer in Nutrition and Global Health
Email: a.j.hernandezalvarez@leeds.ac.uk

Additional information

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

Find out more about the [School of Food Science and Nutrition](#)

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.



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.

Salary Requirements of the Skilled Worker Visa Route

Please note that due to Home Office visa requirements, this role is not suitable for first-time Skilled Worker visa applicants. Information on other visa options is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/work-visas>

