



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Technician in Insect Biology and Toxicology, Faculty of Biological Sciences



Salary: Grade 5 (£27,344 - £31,387 p.a.)

Reference: FBSBY1205

Available on a fixed-term basis for 6 months (to complete specific time limited work)

This role will be based on the University of Leeds Campus.

We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements

Research Technician in Insect Biology and Toxicology

Faculty of Biological Sciences

Are you an early career researcher looking for a challenge? Do you have a background in insect biology, molecular biology, zoology or genetics? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive Universities?

We are seeking an enthusiastic, capable, and adaptable scientist with excellent communication skills, who has experience with insect husbandry and molecular biology (PCR). This fixed-term post will determine the potential of exploiting our fundamental research on bee reproduction in an industrial context. You will work closely with academics and industry to co-develop an assay for assessing immune function in insects.

What we offer in return

- 26 days holiday plus approx.16 Bank Holidays/days that the University is closed by custom (including Christmas) – That's 42 days a year!
- Generous pension scheme options 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.



Main duties and responsibilities

- Assisting in the day-to-day running of the laboratory, including the care and maintenance of our insect colonies (bumblebee, honeybee and hoverfly);
- Liaising with academics and our industrial partners (Applied Insect Science) to perform techniques and protocols as appropriate. These would include (but are not limited to) the following:
 - Inset husbandry
 - DNA and RNA extraction
 - PCR and RT-qPCR
 - Pesticide exposure assays
 - Insect behavioural experiments
 - Microdissection
- Maintaining Health and Safety records and developing risk assessments for new and existing protocols;
- Maintaining good records and laboratory notebooks of work carried out, including providing clear understandable data to other members of the research group;
- Explaining laboratory procedures to new users and students within the research group;
- Providing flexible technical support to members of the research group based on their needs;
- Preparing, collating and presenting data in an understandable manner to members of the research group at regular group meetings.
- This post will include hands-on work with honeybees, bumblebees and hoverflies and is not suitable for individuals with a known allergy to of or phobia of insects.

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

- A Degree, BTEC higher level or equivalent or equivalent experience;



- Experience in basic molecular biology techniques e.g. DNA extraction and PCR (this can include a period in Further or Higher Education);
- Experience of working in a laboratory environment, with the ability to perform technically demanding tasks with care and precision;
- Good organisational and time management skills, with the ability to work unsupervised and use your own initiative to meet deadlines;
- Good verbal and written communications skills, with the ability to clearly articulate and present information, ideas and analysis, modifying your approach to suit different audiences;
- Good IT skills, including MS Office software, with experience of record keeping.

Desirable

- Previous experience with insect husbandry (honeybee, bumblebee or hoverfly), RT-qPCR or other advanced molecular techniques.
- Own transport or a full UK drivers licence (there may be occasional trips to visit our Industrial collaborators in Ripon).
- RSci (Registered Scientist) or RSci Tech (Registered Science Technician) qualification from IST;

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 [Elizabeth Duncan](#), Associate Professor of Zoology

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 7716

Email: e.j.duncan@leeds.ac.uk

Additional information

Find out more about the [Faculty of Biological Sciences](#) and the [School of Biology](#)



Our University

As an international research-intensive university, we welcome students and staff from all walks of life. We foster an inclusive environment where all can flourish and prosper, and we are proud of our strong commitment to student education. Within the School of Biology 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, those 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.

Information for disabled candidates

Information for disabled candidates, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found under the 'Accessibility' heading on our [How to Apply](#) information page or by getting in touch by [emailing HR via hr@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:hr@leeds.ac.uk).

Salary Requirements of the Skilled Worker Visa Route

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.

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 via [the Government's Work in the UK page](#).

Security checks

Appointment to this post will be subject to appropriate security checks being carried out with your permission by a third party company



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.

