UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Technician in Microbiology, School of Food Science & Nutrition

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

Reference: ENVFS1133

Fixed-term for 30 months commencing 1st February 2025

We will consider job share / flexible working arrangements

Research Technician 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?

We are looking for a Research Technician to 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 alternative proteins. 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 with Dr Anthony Buckley within the experienced and multidisciplinary Microbiome & Nutritional Sciences Group.

You will have an undergraduate degree in Microbiology or a closely allied discipline, 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 also have good organisational and communication skills, and the ability to work on your own initiative and as part of a team. 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 Technician, your main duties will include:

- Contributing to a successful programme of investigation, managing individual components of the project;
- Culture and quantification of key microbial populations in accordance with protocols, guidance and regulations;
- Running *in vitro* gut model experiments;
- Supporting molecular qPCR analysis;



- Assisting with writing reports, papers for publication, and presentations;
- Working both independently and as part of a larger team of researchers and stakeholders;
- Supporting research activities, including general laboratory assistance, ordering consumables, and waste management;
- Being aware of the risks in the work environment and work in accordance with the GM and COSSH assessments; contributing to GM and COSSH assessments when appropriate;
- 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 Technician you will have:

- An undergraduate degree in Microbiology or a closely allied discipline;
- Experience of working in a research laboratory (may include completing a relative degree course);
- Practical experience of using general microbiology techniques;
- Experience of analysing gut microbiota using molecular techniques, through DNA extraction techniques and/or using quantitative PCR;
- An understanding of health and safety issues within the laboratory setting;
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, both written and verbal and the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of stakeholders;
- Well-developed analytical skills;
- Excellent organisational skills, with a proven ability to prioritise and plan your work independently to tight deadlines, and to manage conflicting priorities;
- Experience of working proactively and effectively, both independently and as part of a team



- The ability to work unsupervised and to use your own initiative.
- An interest in and ability to learn and adapt to new technical/research situations.

You may also have:

- Experience of laboratory work with stool samples;
- Experience of experiments using obligate anaerobic bacteria;
- Experience of using in vitro gut models;
- Experience of having worked as a technician in a research environment.

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

Additional information

Find out more about the Faculty of Environment.

Find out more about the School of Food Science and Nutrition

Find out more about our Research and associated facilities

Find out more about Equality in the Faculty



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.

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.

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