

CANDIDATE BRIEF

**NAPIC Research Support Technician in Alternative Protein Processing,
School of Food Science and Nutrition**



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

Reference: ENVFS1136

Fixed term for 4 years from 1st March 2025

This post will be campus-based 5 days per week

Research Support Technician

School of Food Science and Nutrition, Faculty of Environment

Are you enthusiastic, well organised and versatile, with a strong motivation to support alternative protein processing research? Do you have experience in working in a laboratory environment and want to use your skills and experience to support our busy research laboratories and help support our academic staff and industrial partners?

We are looking for a NAPIC Research Support Technician to join a project funded by the National Alternative Protein Innovation Centre (NAPIC). NAPIC is a £38m entity (including a £15m UKRI investment) to lead the UK's alternative protein knowledge and Innovation ecosystem. NAPIC's vision is to make alternative proteins mainstream for a sustainable planet. The centre is led by the Universities of Leeds, Sheffield, Imperial College London and the James Hutton Institute, in collaboration with over 100 national and international partners.

You will be based on campus 5 days per week, to support the School's expanding research portfolio in NAPIC activities across a range of laboratories at all School sites and collect data on processing of alternative proteins such as those derived from plants, algae, insects, fungi, bacteria *etc.* You will carry out analysis of research samples using a range of biological, chemical and physical protocols. You will also provide support and expertise to student research projects as well as industry-funded projects at all levels including sample collection, preparation and analysis using a variety of techniques both wet chemical and instrumental. You will also be responsible for maintaining equipment relevant to the research and project activities including servicing and procurement, and maintaining stocks of chemicals and consumables. In addition, you will produce standard operating procedures (SOPs), risk assessments, COSHH forms and other documentation required by research projects aims.

You will have experience of working within a laboratory environment, alongside a BSc or BTEC Higher or equivalent 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. You will have experience in using processing equipment (e.g. colloid mill, extrusion). Experience in working with food samples (meat analogues, protein dispersions *etc.*) is desirable.



You may be required to work weekends to support Open Days and to maintain cell culture lines.

What does the role entail?

As a Research Support Technician, your main duties will include:

- Working with PI's and Senior Research Technicians on National Alternative Protein Innovation Centre (NAPIC) funded Research Projects including contribution to project design, sample analyses, and data input as required;
- Providing safety inductions and training for new users via detailed written and verbal explanations, including maintaining records of the training given and supervising equipment use where necessary;
- Procuring, maintaining and using equipment in research and teaching laboratories, and assisting with equipment access management for multi-user equipment;
- Supporting the student research projects in laboratories;
- Contributing to the School's equipment, chemical and consumables inventories including technical documentation on Minerva;
- Producing and maintaining SOPs and risk assessments/COSHH forms as necessary;
- General 'housekeeping' support and advice for research laboratories;
- Carrying out biological, chemical and physical analyses of samples;
- Managing and prioritising own day to day work to ensure tasks are completed in a timely manner;
- Contributing to the work of the School Safety Team in the laboratories (waste & spill management, COSHH, gas safety, etc.);
- Contributing to the work of the School Sustainability (blueprint) scheme focussing on LEAF awards;
- Attending regular meetings with the Line Manager to discuss progress;
- Working on campus five days per week.

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 Support Technician you will have:

- A BSc in Biochemistry, Biomedical Science, Food Science, Nutrition, Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, or other relevant degree; or a BTEC higher level (or equivalent) in a relevant subject; or equivalent working experience within a scientific research or teaching environment;
- Experience of working in a research laboratory environment including working on short or long term research projects;
- Experience of using food processing equipment (e.g. colloid mill, extruder, spray dryer);
- The ability to train and supervise staff and students on equipment use and techniques in teaching and research laboratories;
- The ability to work collaboratively, including with people from different scientific or technical backgrounds and with members of the general public;
- Excellent interpersonal skills, including the ability to maintain strong working relationships with colleagues at all levels;
- Experience of working proactively and effectively, both independently and as part of a team;
- The ability to work accurately and carefully;
- Excellent organisational skills, with a proven ability to prioritise and plan your work independently to tight deadlines, and to manage conflicting priorities;
- An interest in and ability to learn and adapt to new technical/research situations.

You may also have:

- Experience in working with food samples (meat analogues, protein dispersions etc.)
- MSc degree in a relevant subject such as Food Science, Chemistry, Chemical Engineering etc.



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:

Professor Anwsha Sarkar, Project Leader, National Alternative Protein Innovation Centre (NAPIC)

Email: A.Sarkar@leeds.ac.uk

Miles Ratcliffe, Technical Manager

Email: M.Ratcliffe@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](mailto: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](#).

