



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Technician in heat stress and insect health, Faculty of Biological Sciences



Salary: Grade 5 (£29,588 - £33,002 p.a. pro rata)

Reference: FBSBY1209

**Available on part time (50% fte), fixed term basis until 29 August 2028
(to complete specific time limited work)**

We will consider flexible working arrangements

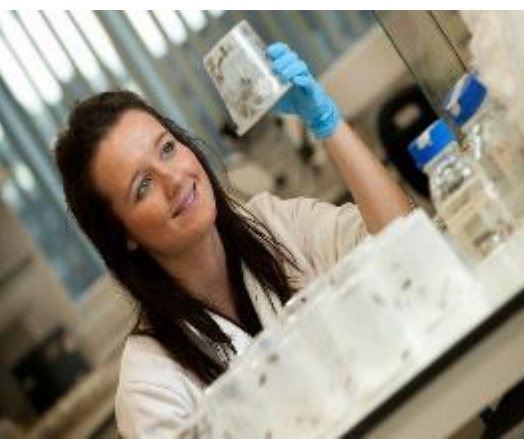
Research Technician in heat stress and insect reproduction Faculty of Biological Sciences

Do you have a background in insect husbandry or experiments with laboratory model species? Are you looking to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive Universities?

The current climate crisis means that understanding the impacts of climate change on organisms is urgently needed. However, research has largely focused on the impact high temperature has on survival. However, in most animals, males typically lose their fertility at a far lower temperature than that required to kill them. In this BBSRC-funded project, we aim to investigate the impacts of heatwaves and mechanisms that underlie sensitivity to heat stress.

In this project, we will investigate how simulated heatwaves impact: 1) health and reproduction depending on age 2) genetic mechanisms through gene expression and gene interference and 3) whether early life heat stress impacts healthy ageing. These experiments will use a combination of molecular/ cellular techniques (RNAseq and RT-qPCR) and health assays (reproductive output, learning assays, in the lab model species *Drosophila* fruit fly). Having identified candidate genes, you will test these functionally by attempting to alter the sensitivity of *D. melanogaster* through RNAi and use of chemical inhibitors. This project will be led day-to-day by a PDRA as part of our project team, based in Leeds in the lab of Prof Amanda Bretman in collaboration with Dr Elizabeth Duncan (Leeds), Prof Claudia Fricke (Halle) and Prof Rhonda Snook (Stockholm).

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 has received a prestigious Silver award. 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;
- Liaising with academics and researchers to perform techniques and protocols as appropriate. These would include (but are not limited to) the following:
- Maintenance of *Drosophila* fruit fly stocks, heat stress assays, insect microdissections, confocal microscopy, RNA extraction, RT-qPCR.
- 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.

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:

- A Degree, BTEC higher level or equivalent or equivalent experience;
- Experience in maintaining and experimenting with lab species, ideally *Drosophila* but could be other insects, or models such as mice, worms or *Arabidopsis*, manipulations under a microscope (e.g. microdissection), some molecular biology experience (e.g. nucleic acid extraction, 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.

You may also have:

- Previous experience with any of: large-scale experiments in *Drosophila* (or other lab species), immunohistochemistry, confocal microscopy, RT-qPCR, behavioural or reproductive assays;
- RSci (Registered Scientist) or RSci Tech (Registered Science Technician) qualification from IST.

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:

Prof Amanda Bretman, Professor in Behavioural Ecology

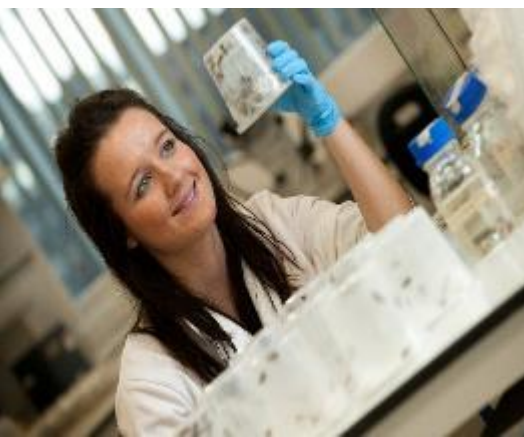
Email: a.j.bretman@leeds.ac.uk

Additional information

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

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.

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.

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 at: <https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/work-visas>

