



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

## CANDIDATE BRIEF

### Research Technician in Animal and Laboratory Techniques, Faculty of Biological Sciences



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

**Reference: FBSBM1231**

**Available on a fixed-term basis for up to 5 years (to complete specific time limited work).**

**We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements.**

# Research Technician in Animal and Laboratory Techniques, School of Biomedical Sciences, Faculty of Biological Sciences

**Are you a researcher looking for a challenge? Do you have a background in *in vivo* rodent models and laboratory techniques? Do you want to expand your knowledge and further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive Universities?**

We are looking for a research technician to join the newly established Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Research (Centre) at the University of Leeds. You will be part of a large team with the aim to understand pathophysiological mechanisms associated with SCI and potential interventions for repair and functional recovery. Specifically, you will focus on *in vivo* and *ex vivo* rodent models of SCI. This will include assisting in surgeries, care, behavioural testing, functional testing, histology, etc. You will work closely with the Chair of the centre, and support others on the team developing various projects. Together we will develop pre-clinical applications that can be swiftly translated clinically to potentially help people living with SCI achieve a better quality of life and eventually a cure to paralysis.

You should have a degree in physiology, neuroscience or a closely allied discipline, or extensive work experience; and experience with *in vivo* rodent models of SCI. You should also be willing to learn new techniques and models, as the projects within the centre will be of a diverse nature.

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 re-awarded a Silver award in 2025. 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

- Assist with animal work and laboratory experiments. These would include (but are not limited to) the following:
  - *Survival surgeries in rodents*
  - *Daily care and maintenance of injured rodents*
  - *Behavioural testing*
  - *Urodynamics and other electrophysiological recordings*
  - *Histology and advanced microscopy*
- Assist troubleshooting research methodology or experimental difficulties encountered within the laboratory reporting findings to the PIs.
- Acting as first point of contact for Health and Safety matters related to the work in the laboratory, developing risk assessments for new and existing protocols. This will include responsibility for the induction of new group members, explaining local laboratory procedures and protocols.
- Maintaining good laboratory records of work carried out and databases of samples held in storage.
- Providing clear understandable data to other members of the research team.
- Supplying information as required to contribute to grant applications and research papers for publication.
- Day-to-day supervision of the laboratory and junior staff or students working in the area associated with the project.
- Responsibility for the management and maintenance of equipment specifically associated with projects. This will also include ordering of specialist services and supplies.
- Work with project leader on day-to-day tasks related to running the SCI Research Centre. This includes, but not limited to ordering laboratory supplies, maintaining social media and web page up to date, support/organize centre events such as seminars, annual conferences, etc.

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 relevant Degree, BTEC higher level or equivalent, or extensive work experience in a relevant area;
- Experience of working with *in vivo* rodents models in a laboratory environment;
- Previous experience with laboratory techniques, such as dissections, histological preparations, microscopy, etc;
- A Home Office Personal License to work with rodents;
- Excellent organisational and time management skills, with the ability to manage your own workload, working under pressure whilst maintaining a high level of accuracy;
- The ability to work pro-actively both independently and within a team;
- Demonstrable problem-solving skills and initiative;
- 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 use of MS Office software;
- Experience of working in a laboratory environment, with the ability to perform technically demanding tasks with care and precision and willingness to learn other laboratory techniques;
- Good organisational and time management skills, with the ability to work unsupervised and use your own initiative to meet deadlines.

### Desirable

- Previous experience with other cell & molecular techniques such as RNA extraction, RT-PCR, etc;
- RSci (Registered Scientist) or RSci Tech (Registered Science Technician) qualification from IST.

## Contact information

To explore the post further or for any queries you may have, please contact:

Faculty of Biological Sciences Jobs

Email: [fbsjobs@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:fbsjobs@leeds.ac.uk)



## Additional information

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

At the University of Leeds, we are committed to providing a culture of inclusion, respect and equity of opportunity that attracts, supports, and retains the best students and staff from all backgrounds. Whatever role we recruit for we are always striving to increase the diversity of our community, which each individual helps enrich and cultivate. We particularly encourage applications from, but not limited to Black, Asian, people 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).

### Security checks

Appointment to this post may 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 (Exceptions) Order 1975

This post may require a standard criminal record check from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), and any equivalent overseas authorities where relevant. The successful candidate will be required to give consent for the University to check their criminal record status. All applicants are required to make a self-declaration where applicable.



Any offer of appointment will be subject to the University being satisfied with the outcome of these checks, 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>.

