



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Field Trial Technical Specialist, Faculty of Biological Sciences



Salary: Grade 6 (£33,951 – £39,906 p.a.)

Reference: FBSBY1217

Available on a full-time, fixed-term basis until 30.09.2028 (to complete specific time limited work)

Location: University of Leeds city campus and University of Leeds farm, Tadcaster

Field Trial Technical Specialist, Faculty of Biological Sciences

Are you looking for a new challenge? Do you have experience of organising field trials? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive Universities?

We are seeking a Field Trial Technical Specialist with a strong interest in regenerative agriculture to join our research team.

This role offers an excellent opportunity to contribute to high-impact research aimed at advancing evidence-based practice for regenerative farming systems. This role is ideal for someone passionate about developing regenerative farming systems, with experience of managing and monitoring field trials, and who is eager to contribute to innovative research to provide evidence-based practical farming techniques that enhance soil health, biodiversity and crop resilience.

You should have proven experience of organising, managing and running field trials as well as monitoring and measuring soil and crop characteristics.

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

- Leading the management, delivery and monitoring of the University of Leeds regenerative agriculture field trial;
- Ensuring efficient trial operation by tracking progress, identifying issues early and implementing practical solutions;



- Supporting research activities assessing the impacts of regenerative agriculture on soil health, water quality, biodiversity, crop production and greenhouse gas emissions;
- Working with the research team to streamline technical processes, ensuring efficiency, accuracy and reliability;
- Designing and implementing scientific experiments with the research group to test key hypotheses and evidence ecosystem service outcomes;
- Coordinating with colleagues, collaborators and stakeholders to ensure experiments are well planned, scientifically robust, delivered on time and aligned with project objectives;
- Contributing to high-quality research delivery through presenting technical findings, contributing to scientific discussions and active participation in group meetings, seminars and collaborative discussions;
- Managing accurate data entry, database oversight, record-keeping and data/statistical analysis in line with research protocols and compliance standards;
- Providing training, inductions and demonstrations of specialist techniques, supporting colleagues and assisting in student supervision;
- Maintaining up-to-date knowledge of regenerative agriculture and proposing methodological and practice improvements;
- Contributing to the dissemination of research through peer-reviewed publications, reports and presentations at meetings and conferences, with guidance as necessary.

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

- Degree in biology, sustainable agriculture, geography or closely allied discipline or at least 5 years relevant experience;
- Experience in the design, management and analysis of UK field trials for crop and environmental monitoring;
- Experience of sampling, monitoring and measuring soil health and/or crop physiology on field trials;



- Experience of managing a team and liaising with multiple stakeholders and collaborators to ensure tasks are delivered in a co-ordinated and timely manner;
- Experience of working closely with farmers and farmer networks;
- Excellent IT and analytical skills for accurate, careful data collection and data analysis;
- Excellent communication skills, both written (e.g. annual reports, posters and flyers) and verbal (e.g. presentations and farm walks) with the ability to communicate trials and research to a range of stakeholders including general public, farmers, agribusinesses and research staff;
- The ability to work well both independently and as part of a team.

Desirable

- Experience of public engagement and/or outreach;
- Experience of monitoring crop disease and pests;
- Experience of measuring greenhouse gas emissions.

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:

[Ruth Wade](#), Lecturer in Sustainable Agriculture

Email: r.wade@leeds.ac.uk

Additional information

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.

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.

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.

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 may only be suitable for first-time Skilled Worker visa applicants if they are eligible for salary concessions. For more information, please visit the [Government's Skilled Worker visa page](#).

For research and academic posts, we will consider eligibility under the Global Talent visa. For more information, please visit the [Government's page, Apply for the Global Talent visa](#).

