

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Support Technician, School of Food Science and Nutrition



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

Reference: ENVFS1162

Fixed-term for 18 months from 1st July 2026 to complete specific time limited work

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 Research Support Technician to join our international and interdisciplinary team developing sustainable microbial protein from agri-food waste-streams. We have recently been awarded £2M from the Bezos Earth Fund as part of their AI for Nature and Climate Grand Challenge to fund our work in this area.

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. Experience of using processing equipment (e.g. fermenters, dryers and experience in working with food samples (meat analogues, protein dispersions *etc.*) would be desirable.

You may be required to work weekends to support Open Days.



Main Duties and Responsibilities

- Working with Academics and Senior Research Technicians on fermentation and alternative protein 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, setting up, 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 and project partners to discuss progress.
- Coordinating external visits to the laboratory and School events such as open days
- 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.



Qualifications and Skills

Essential

- 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 scientific research or teaching environment;
- Experience of working in a research laboratory environment including working on short- or long-term research projects
- The ability to assist with training and supervision of 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.

Desirable

- Experience of using bio-processing equipment (e.g. fermenters, separators, dryers);
- Experience in working with food samples (meat analogues, protein dispersions etc.);
- Experience working in a microbiology environment;
- Experience in setting up new experimental facilities.



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](#)

Our University

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, 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](mailto:hr@leeds.ac.uk).

Criminal Record Information

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.

