



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

## CANDIDATE BRIEF

**Research Assistant in Product Design,  
Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences**



**Salary: Grade 6 (£33,951 - £39,906 p.a. pro rata)**

**Reporting to: Dr Omar Huerta - School of Mechanical Engineering**

**Reference: EPSME1216**

**Closing date: Monday 07 September 2026**

**Part time, 21 hours per week**

**Fixed term (starting from 30 July 2026 and to end by 30 June 2028 - to complete specific time-limited work)**

**Location: Leeds main campus with alternate work at industry partner premises**

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

# **Research Assistant in Product Design, Institute of Design Robotics and Manufacturing, School of Mechanical Engineering.**

**Do you have experience Designing Medical Devices? Have you worked with Sensors and Electronics? Do you have any experience working with heat exchangers, thermal transfer or liquid cooling devices?**

## **Overview of the Role**

We are seeking a highly motivated and hands-on Research Assistant in Product Design to lead the development of an innovative wearable medical device that integrates advanced sensing technologies to support healthcare applications. This role combines user-centred design with engineering, requiring an individual who can translate clinical and user needs into functional, reliable, and manufacturable product solutions.

The successful candidate will be responsible for the end-to-end design and development process, including concept generation, prototyping / Proof of concept, hardware integration, and iterative testing. Working closely with multidisciplinary teams in a fast-paced environment, you will design a solution that incorporates sensors, electronics, embedded software, and data acquisition capabilities. A significant portion of the role involves building and evaluating prototypes, testing rigs, conducting technical investigations, and refining designs based on performance data and user feedback.

The position requires strong technical skills, including experience with coding, embedded systems, sensor integration, and experimental evaluation methods. The appointed person will plan and execute testing, analyse results, troubleshoot technical challenges, and contribute to regulatory and usability considerations associated with medical device development.

This is an ideal opportunity for someone who enjoys combining creativity with practical engineering, thrives in a fast-paced research and development environment, and is passionate about creating innovative wearable and sensor-based solutions that can improve patient outcomes and healthcare delivery.



## Main duties and responsibilities

- Supporting research activities, including contributing to research results and outputs and to the generation of original ideas, ensuring a successful programme of investigation;
- Writing reports, undertaking literature reviews and preparing papers for publication, with guidance as necessary;
- Collating and analysing data to inform the direction and progression of the research project;
- Participating in the research group and presenting research output where appropriate;
- Working both independently and as part of a larger team of researchers and stakeholders;
- Contributing to the research culture of the School, where appropriate;
- Continually updating your knowledge, understanding and skills in the research field.

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

- An undergraduate or masters degree in BSc Product Design, Mechatronics or Medical Engineering or a closely allied discipline;
- A strong background in Product Design, Design & Development, Medical Devices;
- Experience working with sensors, electronics and good coding skills;
- Experience working with cooling systems and/or heat exchangers;
- Experience producing proof of concepts/prototyping;
- Good interpersonal and communication skills, both written and verbal and the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of stakeholders;
- Well-developed analytical skills;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines;



- A proven ability to work well both independently and in a team;
- The ability to work accurately, unsupervised and use your own initiative.

### **Desirable**

- A PhD (or close to completion) in Mechatronics, Product Design, or Design Engineering or a closely allied discipline;
- Experience of contributing to the writing of papers for publication;
- Demonstratable software development / coding skills;
- Experience using SolidWorks skills;
- Demonstratable Project management skills.

## **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:

[Dr Omar Huerta](#), Lecturer

Email: [O.I.Huertacardoso@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:O.I.Huertacardoso@leeds.ac.uk)

## **Additional information**

### **Faculty and School Information**

Further information is available on the research and teaching activities of the [Faculty of Engineering & Physical Sciences](#), and the [School of Mechanical Engineering](#)

### **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.



## **A diverse workforce**

As an international research-intensive university, we welcome students and staff from all walks of life and from across the world. We foster an inclusive environment where all can flourish and prosper, and we are proud of our strong commitment to student education. Within the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences 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 and ethnically diverse people; people who identify as LGBT+; and people with disabilities. Candidates will always be selected based on merit and ability.

The Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences are proud to have been awarded the Athena Swan Silver Award from [AdvanceHE](#). The [Athena Swan Charter](#) is a framework which is used across the globe to support and transform gender equality within higher education and research. Our [equality and inclusion webpage](#) provides more information.

## **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).

## **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 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 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](#).

