



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

**Research Technician in Microbiology,
Faculty of Environment and Social Sciences**



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

Reference: ENVFS1174

Full-time, fixed-term until 31 July 2028 to complete specific time related work

This post will be campus based 5 days per week

Closing date: Thursday 12 November 2026

We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements

Research Technician in Microbiology, Microbiome & Nutritional Sciences Group, School of Food Science & Nutrition.

Do you have experience in managing microbiology studies from design through delivery? Are you looking to take the next step in your career, with more autonomy and responsibility? Do you want to build your career in one of the UK's leading research-intensive Universities?

We are looking for a Research Technician to join a laboratory engaged in diverse aspects of research on gut microbiome research, spanning prebiotics and nutrition through to pharmaceutical and medical applications.

You will work with a novel *in vitro* model system (MiGut) developed at Leeds, taking a lead role in the planning and management of complex, multi-stranded experimental studies from initial design through execution, troubleshooting, and reporting. You will have responsibility for the molecular microbiology workstream (DNA extraction, PCR, and preparing samples for sequencing) as well as broader laboratory management duties including COSHH/risk assessments, procurement, and lab planning. You will work with Dr William Davis Birch within the commercial business unit MicroMimetics, delivering gut microbiome research services to industry.

Holding an undergraduate degree in Microbiology or a closely related discipline (or equivalent experience), you will have laboratory experience including molecular microbiology techniques, and a track record of managing your own workload. Experience with *in vitro* gut models is desirable but not essential; what matters most is your ability to take ownership of a study and see it through.

Please note this post will be campus based 5 days per week.



Main duties and responsibilities

- Taking a lead role in the planning and management of complex experimental studies, contributing technical input to experimental design, scheduling, and troubleshooting across multiple concurrent projects;
- Culture and quantification of key microbial populations in accordance with protocols, guidance and regulations;
- Running in vitro gut model experiments, including day-to-day oversight of ongoing runs;
- Leading on molecular microbiology work: DNA extraction, quantitative PCR, and preparing samples for sequencing (including QC, RNase treatment, and sample cleanup);
- Drafting and maintaining GM and COSHH risk assessments for review and sign-off, supporting laboratory health and safety compliance;
- Supporting laboratory procurement, consumables ordering, and day-to-day lab planning;
- Supporting and helping coordinate part-time PhD students recruited to assist with sampling/dosing during busy study periods;
- Working both independently and as part of a larger team of researchers and stakeholders;
- Diagnosing faults and troubleshooting the MiGut rig and associated laboratory equipment, flagging to the study lead where external contractor support is required;
- Providing induction, training, and demonstration of laboratory techniques to new starters and part-time PhD students;
- Investigating and proposing improvements to laboratory procedures, maintaining up-to-date knowledge of methods relevant to the group's work.
- 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 degree in Microbiology or a closely allied discipline (or equivalent experience);
- Substantial experience of working in a research laboratory, including practical experience of general microbiology techniques;
- Demonstrable experience of DNA extraction and quantitative PCR;
- Experience contributing to the coordination of experimental studies, including day-to-day planning and troubleshooting;
- Knowledge of basic safety regulations and procedures, and experience of contributing to or writing safety forms (Risk Assessments, COSHH and/or GM);
- Experience of training and supervising staff and students in the safe and effective use of equipment and research methodologies within teaching and research laboratories;
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, both written and verbal, with the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of stakeholders;
- Well-developed analytical and problem-solving skills;
- Excellent organisational skills, with a proven ability to prioritise and plan your own work and that of others, and to manage conflicting priorities;
- The ability to work unsupervised, use your own initiative, and take ownership of deliverables;
- Excellent note-taking and record-keeping skills, with a rigorous approach to maintaining accurate laboratory records and data integrity;
- An eagerness and ability to learn new experimental techniques and methods outside your current experience, drawing on methods from available scientific literature.

Desirable

- Experience of using *in vitro* gut models;
- Experience of experiments using obligate anaerobic bacteria;
- Experience of laboratory work with human stool or biological samples;
- Experience of managing laboratory procurement and budgets;
- Experience of having worked in a technician role in a research environment;
- Experience of quantifying microbial metabolites using analytical techniques (e.g. GC-MS);
- Experience of training others in laboratory techniques and the use of specialist equipment.



Additional information

Please note: If you are not a British or Irish citizen, from 1 January 2021 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 and resident in the UK before 31 December 2020, this may be your passport or 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>

Find out more about the [Faculty of Environment and Social Sciences](#)

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](#)

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 Food Science & Nutrition 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 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

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.

