UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Job Description

Job title	Senior Research Technician
Department	Life Sciences
Grade	FA5

Job purpose (a brief summary of the role)	To carry out experiments set by the PI that contribute to the group's research outputs, including the generation and characterisation of transgenic plant lines, extending to new techniques as the role develops; to care for the lab's plants and diatom cultures; to contribute to the running of the lab; and to support and teach other members of the research group.
Duties and responsibilities	1. Plan, undertake and support experiments as agreed with the PI, including new techniques and approaches as the project develops, recording data accurately and in a timely manner. 2. Generate and characterise new transgenic plant lines, from cloning and transformation through to confirmation and analysis, taking ownership of these pipelines once trained. 3. Maintain and propagate plant stocks, including seed collection and storage of transgenic lines, working within plant health and GM licence conditions. 4. Maintain the lab's diatom cultures, including routine subculturing, monitoring culture health and keeping accurate strain records. 5. Carry out core molecular biology techniques, such as DNA and RNA extraction, PCR and genotyping. 6. Keep lab stocks and consumables organised and up to date, and report equipment maintenance issues. 7. Maintain inventories (plasmids, strains, seed stocks, freezers) and electronic records, in line with health and safety and quality standards. 8. Support lab members by assisting with experiments and techniques, contributing to troubleshooting and method development, and sharing knowledge through training in lab methods and SOPs. 9. Contribute to weekly group meetings and communicate with other research groups within and outside the department. 10. Contribute to the preparation of results, figures and methods for publications. The duties and responsibilities outlined are not intended to be an exhaustive list but provide guidance on the main aspects of the job. The postholder will be required to be flexible in their duties.

Person Specification

The Person Specification focuses on the essential and desirable knowledge, skills, experience and qualifications required to undertake the role effectively. This is measured by (a) Application Form, (b) Test/Exercise, (c) Interview, (d) Presentation.

Essential Criterion No.	Essential Criterion Description	Measured by
E1	Vocational Qualification at NVQ Level 4, or HNC/HND or education to 'A' level standard or equivalent in Mathematics and/or a relevant science subject, or relevant experience at a high level in a similar work environment.	A & C
E2	Experience of growing and maintaining plants in a laboratory, greenhouse or other controlled environment, including keeping accurate records and following health and safety procedures.	A & C
E3	Experience of carrying out experiments and routine lab tasks accurately and independently, following protocols and recording results.	A & C
E4	Evidence of working effectively as part of a team, supporting colleagues and sharing knowledge and skills with others.	A & C
E5	Good communication skills, including the ability to report progress and raise problems clearly with the PI and the wider group, in meetings and day to day.	A & C
E6	Ability to seek advice when non-routine problems arise or experiments do not go to plan, and willingness to learn new techniques.	A & C
E7	Good organisational skills and attention to detail, including keeping stocks and inventories up to date.	A & C

Desirable Criterion No.	Desirable Criterion Description	*Measured by*
D1	A degree or professional/recognised qualification in a related subject area (plant science, cell biology, molecular biology or biochemistry) is desirable.	A
D2	Experience of molecular biology techniques, such as cloning (for example, Golden Gate), PCR and genotyping, and/or plant transformation.	A & C
D3	Experience of microscopy (for example, confocal imaging) and/or protein biochemistry techniques.	A & C
D4	Experience of algal or diatom culture, or of aseptic cell culture techniques.	A & C
D5	Prior experience of common lab housekeeping tasks, such as ordering consumables and contributing to health and safety compliance.	A & C