



1 Advertisement

Post Title: Research Technician

School/department: School of Life Sciences - Genome Damage and Stability Centre

Hours: full time or part time considered up to a maximum of 36.5 hours

Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need).

Contract: fixed term until 30 April 2024

Reference: 5622

Salary: starting at £30,046 to £33,797 per annum, pro rata if part time.

Placed on: 15 March 2021.

Closing date: 29 March 2021. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.

Expected start date: As soon as possible

This vacancy is only open to those currently working at the University

The School of Life Sciences is at the forefront of research in the biological sciences in the UK, coming in the top 10 in the REF 2014.

Based in the School of Life Sciences, the Genome Damage and Stability Centre (<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/gdsc/>), is an internationally renowned Institute carrying out research on the response of cells to DNA damage, genome instability and its relationship to disease. We provide a stimulating and supportive environment and our expertise covers a range of experimental systems. The successful applicant will join a well-funded and research-intensive laboratory, under the leadership of Professor Keith Caldecott.

The University is committed to equality and valuing diversity, and applications are particularly welcomed from women and black and minority ethnic candidates, who are under-represented in academic posts in Science, Technology, Engineering, Medicine and Mathematics (STEMM) at Sussex.

For full details and how to apply see our [vacancies page](#)

The University of Sussex values the diversity of its staff and students and we welcome applicants from all backgrounds.

The School of Life Sciences is committed to increasing the diversity of its staff and providing an inclusive working environment. The School currently holds an Athena SWAN Silver Award, has developed a Race Equity Action Plan and hosts an active Equality, Diversity and Inclusion working group.

Applications are particularly welcomed from Black and minority ethnic candidates, and women, trans and non-binary candidates, who are under-represented in the School of Life Sciences.

Applications to posts from candidates who wish to work part-time or as job-sharers are

welcome.

The University offers various schemes to provide real benefits to parents, these can be found at [Family Friendly Policies](#)

Potential candidates are strongly encouraged to make informal contact with Keith Caldecott (k.w.caldecott@sussex.ac.uk) before applying.

Applications should be accompanied by a full CV, a statement of research interests and aspirations (not more than 4 pages), and the names of three academic referees. [Optional

2. The School of Life Sciences

The [School of Life Sciences](#) has a mission statement *to enhance human health and environmental sustainability, through research, education and knowledge exchange*. It undertakes research, teaching and engagement across a wide range of the Life Sciences, from Chemistry through a range of biological and medically-related areas to Conservation Biology. The breadth and depth of cutting-edge research and innovative teaching practice requires a diverse community who work across boundaries to deliver excellence.

The School is the largest in the University in terms of research activity, with an annual research income of c£16m, and is one of the largest in terms of student and staff population: The School has a teaching and research faculty of around 100, over 200 research fellows and technicians, and an administrative team of around 25. We aim to develop scientists that are able to connect with global issues and develop innovative solutions to the challenges that face the planet.

Academics within the School of Life Sciences apply their [research](#) to create impact in areas as diverse as addressing neurodegenerative diseases, saving endangered species, fostering sustainable agriculture and developing diagnostics for cancer and rare diseases. In the most recent Research Excellence Framework (REF2014), more than 96% of the School's research was rated as 'world leading', 'internationally excellent' or 'internationally recognised', putting us above many Russell Group institutions. As part of our research impact, we have developed relationships with business, policy and community partners. Our vibrant post-graduate research community is made up of around 180 PhD students and they are key to our success, undertaking cutting-edge research across all of our areas of interest in the Life Sciences.

Research in the School of Life Sciences is structured into [six collaborative Subject Groups](#), led by a Subject Chair who is a leader in their field. These are *Biochemistry & Biomedicine, Genome Damage and Stability Centre, Neuroscience, Evolution, Behaviour & Environment, Sussex Drug Discovery Centre* and *Chemistry*. The Head of School (Professor Sarah Guthrie, in post since 2017) leads the Head of School Executive, which includes two Deputy Heads of School (one focussed on research, the other on education), the School Administrator and the Director of Technical Services. Wider School organisation and administration is overseen by the School Management Committee, which includes the Subject Chairs and others in Directorship roles.

The School's teaching is firmly based on our research excellence and offers students an intellectually stimulating yet supportive experience, with opportunities for personal research experience and use of modern technology to enhance learning. The School has a population of around 1650 undergraduates studying a [range of subjects](#) across the School's expertise. For each degree we offer a 3-year BSc and a 4-year integrated Masters (MSci or MChem). We also offer a Life Sciences Foundation Year, which is ideally suited for



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students whose A-level (or equivalent) qualifications don't meet the requirements for direct entry on to our BSc/MSci degrees. We have a population of around 85 postgraduate taught students undertaking [MSc or MRes courses](#) across our subject expertise.

The School is committed to the [University's core values](#) of kindness, integrity, inclusion, collaboration and courage. The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee (with representation on the School Management Committee) promotes and encourages our values across the School, [championing initiatives](#) that meet the [University's goals](#) of being Equal, Diverse, Accessible and Flexible. We currently hold an Athena SWAN Silver Award and have a BAME Awarding Gap Committee who closely liaise with the University's Race Equality Charter committee. The School also hosts a wellbeing room and a multi-faith prayer room within its estate and the University supports the [Trans Rights are Human Rights](#) UK initiative. We believe that equality, diversity and inclusion is everyone's business and aim to provide a friendly and supportive environment for all who work, study and visit the School of Life Sciences.

3. Job Description

- The successful applicant will join a well-funded and research-intensive laboratory, under the leadership of Professor Keith Caldecott.
- The role will include provision of resources and training to lab members as and where appropriate, and support where required for critical core techniques within the lab.
- The successful applicant will have demonstrable experience in critical project-specific techniques including PARP1 and PAR biochemistry (including protein purification using an AKTA Pure FPLC), transfection of mammalian cells with recombinant proteins, and experience in mammalian cell culture and fluorescence based biochemical protein interaction assays.

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Job Description for the post of: Research Technician

Department

Section / Unit /
School Life Sciences

Location

Grade 6

Responsible to Keith Caldecott

Responsible for Project Students (day to day supervision)

Purpose of the post - The provision of technical assistance and advice to research project staff and students to facilitate the investigation and output of a project group or groups

Key Responsibilities:



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- 1 Provide technical assistance and advice to staff and students on the preparation of resources, materials, setting-up of specialist equipment, instruments and use of specialised techniques for recognised researchers and research groups within the institution.
- 2 Carry out experiments as needed for timely advancement of research projects. Prepare, collate and interpret results. Liaise with supervisor or Principle Investigator on regular basis to discuss results and project progression/direction.
- 3 Ensure the implementation of a safe working environment using good working practices, inline with relevant local and legal requirements. Undertaking standard risk, or other safety, assessments, and producing standard operating procedures when necessary, under the supervision of the Principle Investigator or supervisor.
- 4 Decide when to order non-routine apparatus and materials, to maintain adequate stock levels, within agreed local budgets. Carry out budgeting exercises and cost control measures under the supervision of, and within the limits, the Principle Investigator or supervisor.
- 5 Planning and organisation of resources for the running of research / general laboratories. Responsible for ensuring that the tidiness and the provision of the laboratory/laboratories is maintained at all times.
- 6 Use initiative and standard procedures to develop, design, modify, construct and set up of apparatus and/or research experiments to meet the needs of the lab.
- 7 Ensure that all project equipment is functional at all times. Carrying out regular, first line maintenance tasks, investigating and identifying faults and then carrying out minor repairs. Ensuring all records are maintained.
- 8 Prepare and maintain adequate laboratory records of methods, sample details and results in a timely fashion within specific research project(s).



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- 10 Attend laboratory meetings and communicate with other departmental or University staff on laboratory issues.
- 11 Instruct, train and guide technical staff and students in techniques and operation of particular equipment / apparatus as directed by a supervisor or member of academic staff.
- 12 Participate in specialist networks and undertake development activities where necessary in order to keep knowledge and skills up to date and relevant for subject specialism. Apply working knowledge of theory and practice, sharing this knowledge with others as appropriate
- 13 Supervision of other technical staff may be required within own area of responsibility as directed by a supervisor or member of academic staff.

This Job Description sets out current duties of the post that may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the post or the level of responsibility entailed.

Date: ...10-3-21.....

Person Specification for the post of: Research Technician

SKILLS / ABILITIES

	Essential	Desirable
Proven ability to work independently and use initiative where appropriate.	X	
Demonstrable IT skills – Word, Excel, email and internet packages.	X	
Competent in using specialist lab equipment	X	
Numerate & literate with good oral and written English communication skills	X	
Good organisational skills with an ability to prioritise to meet set deadlines.	X	
The ability to produce a high level of quality and quantity of work with the use of good sensory and physical co-ordination within the requirements of the job.	X	

KNOWLEDGE

	Essential	Desirable
The technician is required to have sufficient knowledge and/or expertise to work on day to day issues in own area without direct or continuous reference to others.	X	
Working knowledge of Health and Safety as it pertains to the laboratory environment	X	
A well founded understanding of DNA repair biology	X	
An understanding of aspects of molecular cloning	X	

EXPERIENCE

	Essential	Desirable
Possession of a breadth and/or depth of experience showing full working knowledge and proficiency of molecular cloning/purification of DNA repair enzymes	X	
Proven experience in operation/maintenance of AKTA	X	
Proven experience in PARP biochemical assays	X	
Experience of protein transfection in mammalian cells	X	

QUALIFICATIONS

	Essential	Desirable
Normally expected to have Degree level qualification or equivalent in an appropriate field	X	
Level 6 NVQ or equivalent qualifications or experience at a similar level in a relevant subject	X	
Role specific qualification or equivalent experience		X



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PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES AND CIRCUMSTANCES

	Essential	Desirable
Dependable, reliable and self-motivated	X	
Willing to coach and instruct other team members	X	
Willingness to supervise, work as part of, and contribute to, a team.	X	
Flexibility to work outside normal hours if required		X
Flexible and able to adapt to change	X	
Proficiency to handle confidential matters appropriately and discreetly, and with due regard to the General Data Protection Regulations.	X	
Good time-keeping and punctuality	X	
Demonstrates continuous specialist development by acquiring relevant skills and competences for the post.	X	

Date ...10-6-21.....