

Candidate Information

Position:	Technician
School/Department:	Centre for Public Health
Reference:	22/109949
Closing Date:	Monday 25 July 2022
Salary:	£24,871 - £28,756 per annum.
Anticipated Interview Date:	Tuesday 9 August 2022
Duration:	This is a fixed term post, available until 29 February 2024

JOB PURPOSE:

This full-time laboratory technician post involves working with a multi-disciplinary team as part of a collaborative project entitled "SPACE: Supportive environments for Physical and social Activity, healthy ageing and CognitivE health". This ambitious project is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ukri.org).

The overall aim of this research project is to investigate the impacts, and possible mechanistic pathways, of urban environments on healthy ageing and cognitive health, and on diverse individuals and communities, through the novel integration of multi-omics, lifestyle behaviour and environmental exposures from urban environments, to ensure that we create healthy active places that are supportive, attractive and accessible to people as they age.

This laboratory technician will complement an active research team, primarily generating data for multi-omic analyses within our rich Northern Ireland Cohort for the Longitudinal study of Aging (NICOLA).

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. To prepare and maintain biological samples with associated inventories.
2. To liaise with internal and external colleagues to ensure smooth running of laboratory project, to manage data transfer between collaborators, and to troubleshoot technical problems.
3. To prepare relevant paperwork (e.g. transfer agreements) with biological samples for transfer to and from collaborators, suppliers, or service providers.
4. To perform molecular analyses on genomic material. This may include running high density microarrays and performing next generation sequencing of population-based collections.
5. To prepare and carry out procedures for tests/experiments and collate, record and tabulate data for interpretation.
6. To assist in the maintenance and operation of laboratory equipment, e.g. automated liquid handling equipment, PCR machines, scanners and next generation sequencing machines, centrifuges, fridges/freezers, etc.
7. To provide regular written and verbal reports of biological samples and molecular assays.
8. To provide detailed information and guidance to technical staff in laboratory/workshop procedures/research experiments as appropriate.
9. To assist with maintaining supplies of consumables and stock-taking.
10. To comply with Health and Safety procedures affecting self and others.
11. To attend training courses when required.
12. To perform other reasonable tasks as instructed by the Lab Manager and/or PI's.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. * Academic or vocational qualifications (e.g. NVQ 3, 2 A Levels, ONC/OND, City and Guilds level 3 or equivalents in a relevant subject).
2. * At least 3 years recent relevant work experience including handling genetic material and maintaining complex equipment.
3. * Experience of training students and staff in laboratory skills.
4. * Competent in the use of MS Office packages.

5. Must be able to follow instructions and carry out tasks as designated.
6. Must have an understanding of relevant technical protocols.
7. Good oral and written communication skills.
8. Ability to work within a team and take instruction from senior staff.
9. Prepared to do routine and repetitive work.
10. Demonstrate a diligent and thorough approach to work, with attention to detail essential.
11. Must have a genuine interest in molecular techniques for genomic analysis.
12. Ability to work safely within the laboratory environment.
13. Prepared to occasionally work outside normal working hours as required.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. * HNC or equivalent in a relevant biological subject.
2. * Relevant degree.
3. * Recent experience of molecular biological techniques including genomic analysis such as SNP typing and DNA methylation arrays.
4. * Experience in the use of iScan and next generation sequencing platforms.
5. * Experience in the use of Excel and/or databases.
6. * Experience in the use of relevant Bioinformatic packages for data analysis, such as GenomeStudio.
7. Technical knowledge and experience in genetic epidemiology and/or genomics.
8. Experience of generating results from software associated with molecular technologies.
9. Well developed understanding of Health and Safety requirements.
10. Experience presenting reports to a wide audience and liaising with external users/suppliers.