



Candidate Information

Position:	Technician
School/Department:	The Wellcome-Wolfson Institute for Experimental Medicine
Reference:	25/112379
Closing Date:	Monday 17 February 2025
Salary:	£28,456 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date:	Thursday, 27 February 2025
Duration:	Fixed Term, 33 Months or 30 November 2027, whichever is soonest

JOB PURPOSE:

We are inviting applications for a research technician post in the Wellcome Wolfson Institute for Experimental Medicine (WWIEM). The post-holder will be responsible for assisting in vitro and in vivo experiments and helping with laboratory maintenance for the research teams led by Dr Karis Little and Dr Eleni Beli.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Maintenance of animal colonies: Managing transgenic animal colonies (including genotyping when necessary); maintaining and handling mice models of diabetes and Alzheimer's Disease or related models; keeping up to date records.
2. Preparation and Handling of Experimental Animals: Handling of mice, collecting blood samples; assisting with experimental procedures; ensuring proper care and monitoring of the mice throughout the study; ensuring that procedures are according to approved licenses.
3. In Vivo Preclinical Measurements: Assisting in conducting a range of in vivo measurements and assessments such as visual performance (Optomotry), vascular permeability, and electroretinography (ERG) measurements; assisting with live bio-imaging of the retina; closely collaborating with other research staff to ensure accurate and unbiased data collection, recording data to legal and ethical standards.
4. Documentation and Record Keeping: Ensuring accurate and detailed documentation of experimental procedures, data, and results; monitoring and advising on project costs and stock levels relating to the programme of work; collaborating with the research team to maintain organised records of the project's progress.
5. Laboratory Studies: Preparing samples and conducting a range of techniques such as: immunohistochemistry, PCR and Western blot assays; assisting in single-cell transcriptomic analyses using 10X Genomics scRNAseq.
6. Laboratory Maintenance: Responsible for maintaining a clean and organised laboratory workspace; assisting in the preparation and storage of reagents and experimental materials; supporting the upkeep and maintenance of laboratory equipment.
7. Training and Guidance: Providing help and guidance to research students and newly appointed staff on equipment use and laboratory procedures/techniques.
8. Professional Development: Attending training courses as required to enhance skills and knowledge relevant to the research project and personal growth.
9. Protocol Improvement and Compliance: Contributing to improving existing lab protocols and introducing new techniques as required; understanding and complying with health and safety regulations; helping to develop standard operating procedures for new experimental protocols.
10. Collaboration and Communication: Actively contributing to laboratory meetings and teleconferences with external partners.
11. Miscellaneous: Carrying out any other duties that are appropriate to the post as may be reasonably requested by the academic leadership team.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Academic and/or vocational qualifications i.e., OND/ONC and/or NVQ level 3 in relevant subject (or equivalent).
3. 2 years recent work experience in a relevant role to include:
 - Experience in handling and maintaining experimental models.
 - Experience working with animal tissue and animal models

4. Ability to work as part of a team.
5. Computer literate with ability to use a range of packages within the MS Office suite.
6. Good knowledge and understanding of research activity and associated challenges within higher education or the private sector.
7. Good communication and interpersonal skills.
8. Must be able to grasp concepts and ideas quickly.
9. Must demonstrate a clear interest in this area of research.
10. Ability to assess and organise resources.
11. Must be prepared to work with experimental animals and pass an animal licence training course.
12. Must be prepared to work outside normal office hours occasionally.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Degree level qualification or equivalent in a relevant subject.
2. Home Office modules 1-3.
3. Practical experience in conducting laboratory experiments and procedures, preferably in the field of biomedical research or ophthalmology
4. Experience in laboratory techniques such as immunohistochemistry, western blotting and qPCR.
5. Experience using microscopy.
6. Familiarity with handling small animals and monitoring their health throughout the study duration.
7. Familiarity with conducting in vivo assessments in small animals.
8. Familiarity with assessment of visual performance assessments, such as fundus imaging, OCT.
9. Technical knowledge in animal care and research.
10. Working knowledge of relevant systems, equipment and processes.
11. Understanding of and commitment to the NC3Rs principles for in vivo models.
12. Understanding and commitment to follow the legal requirements as determined by the ASPA legislation.