



Candidate Information

Position:	Senior Technician
School/Department:	School of Biological Sciences
Reference:	26/113176
Closing Date:	Monday 6 April 2026
Salary:	£35,136 to £40,316 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date:	Thursday 7 May 2026
Duration:	2 years

JOB PURPOSE:

Act as a Senior Technician for the ASSET Technology Centre with the responsibility for day-to-day operation and coordination of the Centre's mass spectrometry instruments and associated peripheral instruments.

This post is responsible for operation of the laboratory's instrument/space booking system, routine maintenance of instruments including appropriate engagement with suppliers, monitoring and ordering replacement shared consumables, ensuring compliance with health and safety requirements, training new staff/students in operation of instruments, and facilitating internal and external analytical work through development of new methodologies and running samples.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Organise and oversee the general day-to-day operation of the ASSET Technology Centre's mass spectrometry instruments and associated infrastructure.
2. Ensure proper care and maintenance of mass spectrometry instruments, and associated equipment and infrastructure. To diagnose and rectify faults in instruments where possible, and organise repair as necessary.
3. Monitor and maintain a safe working environment to ensure that Health and Safety procedures and relevant legal requirements are met. Ensure compliance and adherence to Health and Safety procedures. Conduct inspections, document and record findings/solutions for safety audit purposes.
4. Undertake, monitor and ensure compliance checking of risk assessments as required.
5. Arrange and manage ordering of equipment and consumables, monitor their use and provide detailed estimates to facilitate forward planning of maintenance costs, research budgets and laboratory work within the area.
6. Liaise with suppliers, including obtaining quotes, liaising with purchasing/procurement, assisting with formal tendering processes and supporting the clerical team to ensure timely completion of financial records/procedures.
7. Develop and maintain complex technologies and provide technical expertise to support a broad range of research techniques relevant to area.
8. Liaise with Technicians responsible for other research areas of the School and to be aware of facilities, technologies, equipment etc. available elsewhere in the School.
9. Deliver student laboratory induction and safety training sessions as required, ensuring all researchers receive the appropriate information and training. Provide training for researchers on selected items of research equipment, as agreed by the ASSET Steering Committee.
10. Maintain appropriate records of materials, stocks and equipment and ensure comprehensive documentation is maintained for audit purposes, e.g. relating to safety checks, protocols, Health and Safety checklists, risk assessments, COSHH forms etc.
11. Ensure a culture of good laboratory practice with an ethos of team-work, collegiality and support for all complying with QUB Core Values.
12. Endeavour to adopt and advise on best practice in achieving sustainable laboratory practices through the adoption of environmentally friendly, green approaches, reducing the use of disposable plastics and identifying new ways to reduce the overall carbon footprint of our research.
13. Undertake any other reasonable duties within the general ambit of the post.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Academic and or vocational qualifications i.e. HNC/HND, NVQ level 4 or equivalent standard in a relevant subject (eg: Biological Sciences, Biochemistry, Analytical Chemistry, Bioanalytical Chemistry); OR Substantial relevant experience working in a multi-functional research and/or teaching environment within the above listed disciplines.
2. At least 4 years recent work experience in a multi-functional research environment to include:
 - Provision of technical support;
 - Demonstrable working experience of bioanalytical chemistry using mass spectrometry;
 - Significant oversight of a multi-functional laboratory;
 - Practical experience of liaising with staff and/or students;
 - Experience of health and safety procedures relevant to the post;
 - Experience of working within small molecule mass spectrometry using either targeted or untargeted liquid or gas chromatography mass spectrometry methods.
 - Experience of developing or adapting analytical methods using mass spectrometry; and
 - Provision of training in the use of equipment and techniques in a relevant area of mass spectrometry.
3. Well-developed oral and written communication skills.
4. Ability to train persons in use of equipment and techniques in relevant area(s) of expertise.
5. Ability to provide oversight of laboratory users.
6. Self-motivated, industrious and committed to fulfilling the aims of the School.
7. Ability to work without supervision.
8. Ability to maintain confidentiality regarding sensitive research.
9. Flexibility to work the hours required for the job.
10. Occasional work outside normal hours as required.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Degree level qualification (or equivalent) in a relevant area (see those listed in essential criteria).
2. Experience of providing health and safety guidance and advice to students and/or staff.
3. Experience in the development and or/implementation of standard operating procedures.
4. Experience in the adoption of sustainable laboratory practices such as the move towards green laboratories.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Informal queries may be directed to: Dr Nick Birse at n.birse@qub.ac.uk