

Candidate Information

Position: Trainee Technician
School/Department: Faculty Office MHLS
Reference: 26/113532
Closing Date: Monday 10 August 2026
Salary: £28,087 - £28,417 during training, increasing to £29,118-£30,630 upon successful completion of training.
Anticipated Interview Date: Tuesday 18 August 2026
Duration: Full Time - Fixed Term; available for approx. 12 months

JOB PURPOSE:

To develop the practical skills, technical knowledge and competencies required to provide high-quality technical support within the Biological Services Unit, contributing to teaching and research while maintaining the highest standards of animal welfare and regulatory compliance.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Undertake a structured training programme, completing all mandatory training, competency assessments and working towards obtaining a Department of Health Personal Licence (PILA + PILB).
2. Contribute to the care and welfare of research animals by providing food, water and routine husbandry, ensuring high standards of welfare are maintained in accordance with the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (ASPA).
3. Assist with the maintenance of Specific Pathogen Free (SPF) animal colonies within designated barrier facilities, including individually ventilated cages (IVCs) and isolator systems.
4. Support the day-to-day operation of the Biological Services Unit by cleaning, preparing and maintaining animal accommodation, equipment, work areas and facilities to the required standards.
5. Learn to operate, clean and carry out routine maintenance of specialist equipment and machinery under the guidance of experienced technicians.
6. Assist in maintaining accurate records using paper and electronic systems, including husbandry, breeding and facility records where appropriate.
7. Monitor stock levels, storage and preparation of consumables, equipment and materials required for teaching and research activities.
8. Develop an understanding of relevant legislation, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), Health and Safety requirements and biosecurity practices, ensuring compliance in all aspects of the role.
9. Work collaboratively with colleagues and provide support to academic staff, researchers and students using the Biological Services Unit.
10. Required to participate in a planned overtime rota, including weekends and University closure periods, to support the continuous operation of the Biological Services Unit.
11. Undertake any other duties appropriate to the grade and nature of the post as may reasonably be requested by the line manager or supervisor.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. A minimum of five GCSEs (Grade C/Level 4 or above), or equivalent, including English Language and Mathematics.
2. Some practical work experience (up to one year) in an animal care, laboratory, technical, healthcare, agricultural, manufacturing or similar environment.
3. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to work effectively as part of a multidisciplinary team.
4. Good organisational skills, with the ability to follow written procedures, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and instructions accurately.
5. Competent IT skills, including experience using Microsoft Office applications and electronic record management systems.

6. A basic understanding of Health and Safety legislation and the importance of working within a regulated environment.
7. A genuine interest in laboratory animal technology, scientific research and maintaining the highest standards of animal welfare.
8. A willingness to undertake a structured training programme, successfully complete competency assessments and obtain a Department of Health Personal Licence (PILA + PILB) within the first 12 months of appointment.
9. The ability to meet the physical requirements of the post, following reasonable adjustments where appropriate.
10. A willingness to participate in an overtime rota, including weekends and University closure periods, to support the continuous operation of the Biological Services Unit.
11. A Basic AccessNI check will be required prior to appointment.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. A qualification in Animal Care, Animal Management, Laboratory Animal Science, Biomedical Science or another relevant discipline.
2. Previous experience working with animals, particularly within a research, veterinary, agricultural or other regulated environment.
3. Experience working within a laboratory, technical, healthcare or manufacturing environment.
4. Experience maintaining high standards of cleanliness, hygiene and biosecurity within a regulated workplace.
5. Experience using Management Information Systems (MIS) or electronic record management systems, preferably relating to animal husbandry, breeding or scientific research.
6. Experience operating, maintaining or troubleshooting laboratory or specialist technical equipment.
7. Knowledge of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (ASPA), associated legislation and the principles of the 3Rs (Replacement, Reduction and Refinement).
8. Current holder of a Department of Health/Home Office Personal Licence (PILA + PILB).
9. Experience of working in accordance with Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), quality management systems and regulatory requirements.
10. A commitment to continuous professional development and establishing a long-term career in laboratory animal technology.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Informal enquiries can be directed to: Niklaus Deboer - N.Deboer@qub.ac.uk.

Please note: This is a 12-month fixed-term contract, with the possible opportunity to progress to a permanent Grade 3 position upon successful completion of training.