



Job title	Senior Research Technician	Job family and level	Technical Services Level 3
School/ Department	School of Veterinary Medicine and Science	Location	Sutton Bonington Campus

Purpose of role

Working in a leading research group Ruminant Population Health that carries out high-impact research within the school of veterinary medicine and science. You will be supporting delivery of a funded Innovate project that aims to develop a novel, epigenomics-driven platform, EPIHERD, for UK dairy farmers. In this pioneering study we will decipher the baseline and dynamic range of gene-expression, including novel biomarkers we've already identified, by longitudinally sampling calves and cows and translate to actionable insights via analysis a herd's epigenomic data with meta and performance data, using sophisticated bioinformatics, machine-learning and artificial intelligence. You will support delivery of this project through planning, supporting and conducting on farm data collection and collation to high quality standards at dairy farm mainly Centre of Dairy Science Innovation. As a member of the team, your role will focus on coordinating and conducting on-farm research activities especially data collection. You will plan your work schedule to meet the demands of routine work.

	Main responsibilities (Primary accountabilities and responsibilities expected to fulfil the role)	% time per year
1	<p>Provide technical support for research project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide specialist technical support and expertise to a funded project through planning, supporting and conducting on farm data collection to high quality standards. • Planning, administration and delivery of research activities as agreed with PI • PIL holder. Manage project run under home office license, ensuring everything complies with home office legislation. Responsible for animals being used in home office studies, keep accurate records of procedures carried out on the animals in line with home office requirements. Carry out weekend/holiday checks on animals under the study as per agreed rota with team members. • Collect and record data from monitoring equipment, direct observation of animals, milk and blood sampling involving cattle handling while working alongside other members of the team. • Accurately complete and maintain data capture and other study documentation to a high standard, input data into electronic 	85%

	<p>databases, interpret data to inform study design and complete and assist with data analysis and reporting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work independently, liaising with farmer, veterinary surgeon and support workers and other study participants to ensure the smooth running of field studies. • Retain responsibility for the day-to-day administration and completion of research studies so will be expected to proactively identify and resolve problems, maintain equipment to a high standard (including diagnosing and rectifying faults) and advise on the development of study protocols based on experience gained in the field. • Utilize knowledge and expertise to aid troubleshooting and problem solving • Trains staff and students on the application of techniques and use of relevant equipment • Contribute to the development of new or improved methods, techniques and equipment. • Advise on the purchasing of equipment and consumables to meet the needs of research projects • Effectively communicate information to colleagues, suppliers and maintenance staff. • Undertake further training as required for example Personal Home office license to develop skills and techniques in a specialist area 	
2	<p>Implement safety policies in accordance with University and School guidelines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow all university and local safety arrangements in the performance of all duties and follow local escalation procedures for any health and safety considerations. • Write and review risk assessment, standard operating procedures and other relevant paperwork in collaboration with senior colleagues. • Asses the risk of the planned activity and perform the tasks having acted to ensure the safety of yourself and others. • Monitor and maintain a safe work environment by carrying out relevant local inspection and housekeeping, identifying and resolving any issues, liaising with senior staff and external contractors as required. 	10%
3	Any other duties appropriate to the grade and role	5%

Person specification

	Essential	Desirable
Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent written and verbal communication skills • Excellent IT skills, including MS office • Ability to understand and address non-routine work • Ability to work accurately in order to maintain high standards, with the ability to work effectively under pressure • Willing to work independently and as part of a team • Ability to build relationships and collaborate with others internally and externally • Willing to attend training courses appropriate to the role 	
Knowledge and experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proven technical experience in animal handling skills, particularly farm species • Experience observing/gathering and recording animal health and/or behaviour data • Proven technical knowledge and understanding of range of on farm equipment. • Management (including electronic entry) of research data • An understanding of regulations and procedures governing area of work (including Home Office and Health and Safety) and the implications of non-compliance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of cattle mobility scoring and foot trimming • Technical knowledge and previous experience of providing technical support to on-farm research studies
Qualifications, certification and training (relevant to role)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum of HNC in animal related subject, or equivalent qualifications plus considerable work experience in a relevant role OR Substantial work experience in a relevant role 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal care and management qualification • Home office personal license (including cattle)
Statutory/Legal requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satisfactory basic disclosure obtained from the Disclosure and Barring Service. 	



As part of this, we welcome a diverse population to join our work force and therefore encourage applicants from all communities, particularly those whose protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010, are not well-represented in our current staff body.

Expectations and behaviours

The University has developed a clear set of core expectations and behaviours that our people should be demonstrating in their work, and as ambassadors of the University's strategy, vision and values. The following are essential to the role:

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| Valuing people | Is open and welcoming of others, approachable and respectful. Considers the wider point of view and delivers appropriate support and guidance to colleagues. |
| Taking ownership | Shows initiative and takes responsibility for own actions. Offers clarity and tactful support to colleagues to aid decisions and actions. |
| Forward thinking | Demonstrates the ability to learn, and enjoys the opportunity to develop. Likes to share and implement new ideas and improvements in their area of work. Seeks feedback from others. |
| Professional pride | Is self-appraising, seeking feedback from others and acts as a great role-model at all times. Keen to deliver the job well and be an effective member of the team. |
| Always inclusive | Is sensitive to the needs of others and understands every person is important, right across the organisation, irrespective of level, culture, disability or any other characteristic. |

Key relationships with others

