



Job title	Senior Technical Specialist	Job family and level	Technical Services Level 4
School/ Department	School of Life Sciences	Location	Medical School QMC and other

Purpose of role

To work in a team to support and deliver expertise and skills in *in vivo* activities across the division of Physiology, Pharmacology and Neuroscience (PPN), within the School of Life Sciences. The role holder will assist academic staff and students across a range of projects, providing specialist support through the delivery of differing techniques, and the generation and interpretation of quality data, and ensuring care and attention to detail are maintained.

The role is important to provide an essential level of technical expertise to ensure the smooth day to day running of multi-user *in vivo* behavioural, electrophysiological and surgical suites and provide a safe working environment. The role also contributes to teaching by supervising and assisting undergraduate and postgraduate students.

	Main responsibilities (Primary accountabilities and responsibilities expected to fulfil the role)	% time per year
1	<p>Technical Specialist skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Act as a recognised source of specialist small animal <i>in vivo</i> technical expertise in the following areas: behavioural and surgical techniques, as well as other <i>in vivo</i> approaches to support research projects, travelling across sites as required. ▪ To conduct primary research to underpin project goals, including <i>in vivo</i> behavioural, surgical and physiological measurements as well as biochemical and other post-mortem experiments. ▪ To ensure techniques are carried out and performed to the required standards to ensure accurate results whilst maintaining animal welfare, meeting the requirements of the Home Office and Health and Safety standards. ▪ Ability to understand, conceptualise and interpret the technical and/or experimental requirements of staff and students. ▪ Act as recognised source of specialised technical expertise providing training and supervision in <i>in vivo</i> techniques. ▪ Contribute with specialist advice on the development of new or improved methods/techniques/equipment for research projects being supported. 	65%

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assist in advising staff and students in experimental development, design, application and preparation, using specialised techniques and the use of relevant laboratory equipment. ▪ Assist in the interpretation of results and use of appropriate analysis, contribute to the writing of publications as required. 	
2	<p>Laboratory Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Responsible for the day-to-day planning and running of multiple laboratories and suites (maintaining Home Office standards). ▪ To maintain appropriate records, including Home Office returns. ▪ To conduct regular routine maintenance, fault diagnosis and repair of equipment/ apparatus personally or with others. ▪ Assist with purchasing of equipment and consumables. Ensure adequate stocks of laboratory supplies are maintained for each area. 	10%
3	<p>Health and Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitor Health and Safety in the performance of all duties by assessing the risks of the planned activity and performing the tasks having considered, and acted to secure, the safety of yourself and others. ▪ Ensure compliance with work related legal, health and safety standards for suites and labs. ▪ Ensure students and new researchers are trained in techniques and the safe and effective use of equipment to ensure compliance with relevant health and safety regulations. ▪ Ensure safe and effective use of equipment to ensure compliance with relevant health and safety regulations, including carrying out safety risk assessments. ▪ Assist with SoLS H&S laboratory monitoring. 	10%
4	<p>Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To communicate effectively with colleagues across the school. ▪ To maintain an updated timetable of work activities and objectives, advising staff on availability and any constraints. ▪ To work closely with technical colleagues, PhD students, academic project leads and BSU staff. 	10%
5	Any other duties appropriate to the role.	5%

Person specification

	Essential	Desirable
Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proven technical expertise with extensive work experience in small animal in vivo techniques ▪ Proven analytical and technical problem-solving skills ▪ Excellent oral and written communication skills, to enable the identification and understanding of user requirements ▪ Ability to identify and manage risks to enable effective project delivery ▪ Ability to build effective working relationships and collaborate with others both internally and externally ▪ Ability to work as an effective team member, with flexibility ▪ Proven ability to work accurately and effectively under pressure ▪ Planning and organising skills required to manage timelines, work activities with delivery to deadlines ▪ Requirement to understand, conceptualise and interpret the technical and/or experimental requirements of staff and students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evidence of contributing to work published in scientific journals ▪ Surgical training and /or experience in conducting invasive surgeries ▪ Knowledge of analgesia and anesthetics ▪ Experience in ex vivo cardiovascular models ▪ Experience of ex vivo neuroscience models/techniques
Knowledge and experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Understanding and experience of applying relevant scientific or technical and/or experimental theory, knowledge. ▪ Experience and knowledge across a wide range of in vivo techniques ▪ Evidence of a broad range of biochemical and immunohistochemical experience ▪ Evidence of providing training to different levels of users 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Experience working with and supervising the day to day work of undergraduate and postgraduate students ▪ Can demonstrate knowledge and application of 3Rs principles
Qualifications, certification and training (relevant to role)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimum HNC or equivalent, plus substantial work experience in a relevant role or Proven track record with extensive work experience in a relevant technical or scientific role. ▪ Home Office Personal Licence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Additional qualifications in biological sciences or related field ▪ RSci/ IEng or equivalent



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:

- Valuing people** Is friendly, engaging and receptive, putting others at ease. Actively listens to others and goes out of way to ensure people feel valued, developed and supported.
- Taking ownership** Is clear on what needs to be done encouraging others to take ownership. Takes action when required, being mindful of important aspects such as Health & Safety, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, and other considerations.
- Forward thinking** Drives the development, sharing and implementation of new ideas and improvements to support strategic objectives. Engages others in the improvement process.
- Professional pride** Is professional in approach and style, setting an example to others; strives to demonstrate excellence through development of self, others and effective working practices.
- Always inclusive** Builds effective working relationships, recognising and including the contribution of others; promotes inclusion and inclusive practices within own work area.

Key relationships with others



