

## Job Description

Job Title	Technician Demonstrator
Department	School of Natural Sciences
HR Ref No.	RA1553-25
Role Code	
Grade	OS6
Base location	Exton Park Campus
Reports to	Laboratory Managers
Direct reports	None
Date created	December 2025

### Job purpose

This role provides specialist technical support for postgraduate students within the School of Natural Sciences, with a focus on stem cell biology, biotechnology, and related disciplines. The postholder will play a key role in preparing and maintaining advanced laboratory equipment, supporting practical teaching and research activities, and delivering hands-on guidance in complex techniques. Working closely with academic staff, the technician will ensure high-quality technical provision across postgraduate programmes, contributing to student skill development, research excellence, and safe, efficient laboratory operations.

### Key duties and responsibilities

- Operate as a member of the Technical team within the School of Natural Sciences, reporting to the Laboratory Managers
- Provide technical assistance for postgraduate practical sessions in stem cell biology, biotechnology, and related disciplines, including preparation and maintenance of laboratory equipment and materials
- Offer technical guidance and support to postgraduate students undertaking research projects
- Answer generic queries from students and staff on a daily basis
- In collaboration with a member of academic staff, to deliver demonstrations in practical classes
- Provide a helpful, reactive service to the requests of academic staff regarding room set up, practical preparation required, demonstration requirements etc
- Respond to students requests for assistance within practical sessions and where appropriate with projects and equipment support
- Make independent decisions regarding the technical support and guidance provided to students and staff using the departmental laboratories.
- Making collaborative decisions with academic staff regarding the contents of sessions.
- Provide advice to students to enable them to make decisions on the appropriate action to take to meet project/ assignment/ dissertation requirements
- Working autonomously and independently, planning and organising their own workload to meet the requirements of staff and students within the department
- Solving standard day to day problems that may arise, e.g. broken equipment and to solve more complex problems in relation to specific practical set ups
- Ensuring facilities and equipment are maintained to the required standard and inform the Lab Manager should equipment fall below this standard
- Ordering and maintaining stock
- In preparing for a practical session, to analyse the requirements and test the success before the session is delivered to students

- To be responsible for the storage, safe supervision and loan of equipment to persons who have been trained in its use.
  - To be familiar with COSHH regulations and all procedures in the use of equipment under the requirements of the Health and Safety Policy
  - The role holder is not expected to undertake an academic teaching role. There is no requirement in the role for resolution of academic problems, intellectual issues or issues of scholarly learning support. There is no requirement for assessment. A member of academic staff is always available to assist the role holder with any issues that may occur within the scope of the role.
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- In addition to the above, undertake such duties as may reasonably be requested and that are commensurate with the nature and grade of the post.

### **General duties**

- To uphold and comply with all University's policies and procedures, including those relating to:
  - Equality, diversity and inclusion
  - Health and safety
  - Data protection and IT security
  - Safeguarding
  - Sustainability
- To support the creation of a culture that is highly performance focused and built on a foundation of fairness, diversity, belonging and inclusivity.

## Person Specification

Job Title	Technician/Demonstrator	Role Code	
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The person specification details the qualifications, skills, experience or other attributes needed to perform the job.

**Essential criteria** are those, without which, a candidate would not be able to do the job. Applicants who do not clearly demonstrate in their application that they possess the essential criteria will normally be rejected at the shortlisting stage.

**Desirable criteria** are those that would be useful for the candidate to possess and will be considered when more than one applicant meets the essential requirements.

### Methods of assessment:

**A** = Application Form, **I** = Interview/Assessment Tests, **P** = Pre-Employment Checks

Selection Criteria	Essential (E) or Desirable (D)	Assessed via
<b>QUALIFICATIONS</b>		
Undergraduate degree in Biological Sciences (or other relevant discipline)	E	A
Postgraduate degree in Biological Sciences (or other relevant discipline) or equivalent relevant experience	D	A
<b>KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE</b>		
Experience of techniques and skills employed in practical work for cell culture and/or biotechnology	E	A/I
Experience of laboratory research environments	E	A/I
Experience of providing technical support and training in a laboratory setting	E	A/I
Familiarity with setting up and using a wide range of scientific laboratory equipment	E	A/I
Computer literacy and numeracy	E	A/I
Experience as a Demonstrator in laboratory classes	D	A/I
Use of data management and statistical analysis programmes such as Excel and R	D	A/I
<b>SKILLS AND PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES</b>		
Effective communication to deliver demonstrations and instruction to students with varying experience	E	A/I
Ability to plan own work and make independent decisions	E	A/I
Working with and supervising students in laboratories	E	A/I
Adaptable, hard-working, self-disciplined and committed	E	A/I
Ability to work effectively as part of a team, and support students and academic staff	E	A/I
Ability to make effective decisions about the use of laboratory and other teaching resources	E	A/I

**UNIVERSITY OF CHESTER**  
**TERMS & CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT**  
**NATURAL SCIENCES**  
**TECHNICIAN DEMONSTRATOR**

**SALARY SCALE**

University Scale OS6, points 19-22, £28,778 - £31,236 per annum payable monthly in arrears.

**HOURS OF WORK**

Monday to Thursday            9:00am – 5:30pm  
Friday                                9:00am – 4:30pm (less one hour lunch break each day)

A flexible approach to work will be required as there may be occasions when it would be necessary for you to work additional hours as dictated by the workload.

**HOLIDAY ENTITLEMENT**

In addition to statutory Bank/Public Holidays and Christmas Closure days, staff are entitled to 22 days annual leave per annum (in the annual leave year in which employment commences annual leave entitlement will accrue on a pro-rata basis), rising to 27 days after five years' continuous service.

**MEDICAL EXAMINATION**

Successful candidates will be required to complete an Occupational Health questionnaire, and may be required to undergo a medical examination.

**ESSENTIAL CERTIFICATES**

Short-listed candidates will be asked to bring to interview, proof of qualifications as outlined on the Job Description and Person Specification provided. Upon appointment, copies of essential certificates will be required by Human Resources.

**PENSION SCHEME**

The University operates two pension schemes for support staff:

- The default scheme is the Higher Education Defined Contribution Scheme (HEDCS), which is administered by AVIVA.
- The Cheshire Local Government Pension Scheme, to which the University is an admitted body.

All support staff are entitled to participate in one of these schemes. Some staff will be automatically enrolled into a scheme, depending on their age and earnings, but if they do not wish to remain a member of the scheme, they will be entitled to opt out after enrolment.

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

The University has a policy of equal opportunity aimed at treating all applicants for employment fairly.

**SMOKING POLICY**

The University operates a No-Smoking policy.

**PROBATIONARY PERIOD**

A nine months' probationary period applies to all University posts.