Sainsbury Wellcome Centre

Job Description

Senior Animal Technician



Department: Sainsbury Wellcome Centre
Grade: 6
Salary: £37,162 - £43,749 per annum inclusive of London Allowance
Hours: 36.5 per week (full-time, 1.00 FTE)
Reports to: NRF Floor Manager

Context

The state-of-the-art Neurobiological Research Facility (NRF) within the Sainsbury Wellcome Centre (SWC) enables world leading scientific research involving the use of animals including mice and rats.

The NRF is both science and welfare driven. It is flexible and forward-looking and promotes collaboration within and beyond the institute. The facility provides expertise and support for housing and experiment, all underpinned with world-class standards of welfare.

SWC recently received full accreditation from the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC) International.

Main purpose of the job

This post primarily involves responsibility for the care and welfare of breeding and experimental mice, including transgenic animals.

Proven skills and experience with mice in a research environment is essential as is possession of a Personal Licence. You will be required to conduct licensed procedures after suitable training.

Following induction training you will be expected to take responsibility for the everyday organisation of your own workload, whilst working unsupervised and on your own initiative to maintain the NRF service provision.

You will be required to work occasional unsociable hours to meet the demands on the service; this will include some weekend working

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Duties and responsibilities

- Direct contact with project licence holders and licencees to oversee transgenic mouse breeding programmes and the maintenance of experimental animals.
- Contribute to the development and implementation of standard operating procedures for the facility.
- Report to the Head of the NRF on health and safety issues within the facility.
- Report on environmental conditions in the rooms in which animals are held.
- Provide in-house training of staff and researchers on basic techniques including Schedule 1 methods.

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- Promote and foster a Culture of Care including the 3R's and our core values
- Operate mechanical cage washing.
- Carry out daily cleaning, changing of water bottles and feeding of rodents.
- Performance of licensed procedures.
- Computer data entry of cost recovery and breeding records.
- Perform room cleaning and waste disposal.
- Take deliveries of diet and bedding as well as movement of supplies within the unit.
- Adherence to Home Office guidelines, the Animal Scientific Procedures Act 1986 and the EU Directive.

General

- Carry out any other duties within the scope, spirit and purpose of the job as requested by the line manager.
- Actively follow and promote all UCL policies including those on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.
- Maintain an awareness and observation of Fire and Health & Safety Regulations.
- There may, on occasion, be a requirement to work extended hours.
- Follow and actively promote the UCL Ways of Working.
- This job description may be reviewed and be subject to amendment in consultation with the post holder.
- All staff are expected to act professionally, co-operatively and flexibly in line with the post.
- UCL's Sustainability policies and objectives, attend management meetings and undertake such training and development as may be required for the post
- The above description is not exhaustive, and the post-holder will be required to undertake any other duties as may reasonably be requested within the scope, spirit, and purpose of the post.

Person Specification

Applicants should copy and paste the following essential criteria (which are assessed on the application form) into the "Statement in support of your application" and describe underneath each criterion how they meet it, giving examples.

Essential Criteria	Assessment method
Qualifications, experience and knowledge	
Hold a minimum of 5 A*–C or 9–4 GCSEs or equivalent qualification in Science. Hold an Institute of Animal Technology qualification or equivalent.	Application
Extensive experience in animal care and welfare within a research environment, ensuring compliance with relevant regulations and standards.	Application/Interview
Sound and applied knowledge of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, EU Directive, and Home Office Codes of Practice; ensures compliance within area of responsibility.	Application/Interview
Extensive knowledge and proficiency in small animal procedures, providing guidance to others where required.	Application/Interview
Fully conversant with transgenic technology, including independent management of breeding and maintenance of transgenic colonies.	Application/Interview
Applies and enforces biosecurity principles, demonstrating a deep understanding of their importance, particularly for immunocompromised animals.	Application/Interview
Ensures adherence to all safety regulations and contributes to the development and improvement of safety protocols.	Application/Interview
Oversees and ensures the effectiveness of cage washing and sterilisation processes, maintaining high biosecurity standards.	Application/Interview
Skills and abilities	
Leads or facilitates effective and collaborative teamwork, contributing to the development and improvement of processes.	Application/Interview
Plans, coordinates, and oversees work activities independently, setting priorities for self and others while ensuring high standards of accuracy and compliance	Application/Interview
Proficient in managing and optimising databases and record-keeping systems, and supports others in their use	Application/Interview
Actively pursues and promotes continuous professional development, mentoring junior staff and identifying opportunities for further learning.	Application/Interview
Demonstrates a deep understanding of and actively advocates for the mission and research environment of the SWC, contributing to its establishment as a world-leading research centre	Application/Interview
Able and willing to work non-standard hours to meet the needs of the NRF.	Application/Interview
UCL Ways of Working	
Personal Excellence: Planning effectively so that work is delivered and others are not delayed.	Interview
Working together: Innovating and sharing with new ways to work efficiently.	Interview
Achieving our mission: Working methodically, prioritising and managing tasks.	Interview

Desirable Criteria	
Applicants should copy and paste the following desirable criteria into the "Statement in support of your application" under the Desirable criteria section and describe underneath each criterion how they meet it, giving examples.	
Qualifications, experience and knowledge	
Experience of safety issues within a laboratory animal unit.	Application
Experience of managing or supervising a small team	Application

Apply

To apply for this position visit:
ucl.ac.uk/work-at-ucl/search-ucl-jobs

Please complete the online application form and use the supporting statement section to indicate that you are applying for the Grade 6 Senior Animal Technician role, outline your interest in joining SWC and how you meet the essential and desirable criteria for the role.

If you have any queries regarding the application process, please email: swc.hr@ucl.ac.uk

For informal enquiries about the role please contact: Eleni Amaniti e.amaniti@ucl.ac.uk

All candidates will be notified of the outcome of their application.

Probation
Appointments are subject to receipt of satisfactory references and a probationary period of 6 months

Annual leave
Annual leave is 27 working days for a full-time member of staff + 6 UCL closure days in addition to 8 Bank Holidays.

Pension
Post-holders will be eligible to join SAUL (Superannuation Arrangements of the University of London) subject to the Scheme's rules and eligibility conditions.

Hours of Work
UCL's full time working week is 36.5 hours per week.

You will be required to work occasional unsociable hours to meet the demands on the service; this will include some paid overtime working (up to two weekends per month) and UCL closure days

SWC is willing to consider flexible-working arrangements, subject to discussion and agreement with your line manager.

Other benefits
UCL is a dynamic, global university based in one of the most exciting capital cities in the world. Not only does working at UCL offer the opportunity to work with some of the greatest intellects in the world, it also offers competitive terms, conditions and benefits to its staff.

As part of the UCL community you can access free lunch hour lectures, exhibitions and museums and collections. On campus UCL has the Bloomsbury theatre hosting a range of performances and a series of bars, cafes, and other facilities, which UCL staff can use.

In addition to 41 days annual leave (inclusive of public holidays and closure days) and generous pension schemes, UCL provides a number of other staff benefits which are linked from the page below:

- ✓ https://www.ucl.ac.uk/human-resources/pay-benefits/staff-benefits

UCL benefits and policies apply equally, whatever the sexual orientation and/or gender identity of employees. Benefits and policies relating to employees partners, includes both different sex and same sex partners.

About Sainsbury Wellcome Centre

The Sainsbury Wellcome Centre (SWC) brings together world-leading scientists to investigate how brain circuits process information to generate perception, form memories and guide behaviour. Developed through the vision and partnership of the Gatsby Charitable Foundation and Wellcome, and with substantial investment from these partners, the mission of the SWC is to generate experimentally testable theories of brain function.

The Centre comprises 12 highly interdisciplinary experimental research groups accommodated in a new, purpose-designed building, offering an outstanding and unparalleled research environment. SWC scientists use a broad spectrum of the latest advances in molecular and cellular biology, imaging, electrophysiology and behavioural techniques and enjoy state-of-the-art research laboratories, cutting-edge scientific equipment, technologically-advanced prototyping and fabrication laboratories and custom in-house high-performance computing facilities.

SWC is part of the UCL School of Life and Medical Sciences (SLMS). SLMS brings together four UCL Faculties to create one of the largest and most prestigious aggregations of academics in biomedical, life and population health sciences worldwide. The School has a global reputation for teaching, informed by cutting-edge research. SWC is most closely linked with the Faculties of Brain Science and Life Sciences, and is aligned administratively with Life Sciences. The Faculty of Life Sciences leadership team works closely with the SWC leadership to support and enable their mission and facilitate research excellence.

Further details about UCL can be found at www.ucl.ac.uk.

Professional Services at the Sainsbury Wellcome Centre

SWC has a specialist and experienced professional services team. It is structured to efficiently support research activity and deliver effective management and operational leadership of the SWC.SWC prides itself on offering a high quality administrative, technical and operational support function, and fully supports the professional development and progression of its staff, actively encouraging colleagues to learn new skills and broaden their experience. The SWC is supported in this aim by UCL's Organisational Development team who run a wide range of training programmes for all staff types and grades.

Work Environment

SWC offers staff an award-winning work environment in the heart of Fitzrovia with an on-site brasserie, access to lockers and changing facilities, secure bicycle storage, and access to pleasant outdoor spaces. The Centre also offers the full range of UCL staff benefits, including a generous annual leave entitlement, occupational pension schemes, excellent family-friendly policies such as occupational shared parental pay, a work-life balance policy, and a range of financial benefits such as a season ticket loan scheme and staff discounts.

Accreditations

The Sainsbury Wellcome Centre and Gatsby Computational Neuroscience Unit recently received an Athena Swan Bronze Award. Find out more about our commitment to promoting gender equality.

SWC recently received full accreditation from the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC) International. Find out more about our commitment to supporting a culture of care.



