Animal Technician (Neurobiological Research Facility) 
Information for Candidates

Sainsbury Wellcome Centre for Neural Circuits and Behaviour at UCL

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Job Description .............................................................................................................................................3
  About the Sainsbury Wellcome Centre ....................................................................................................3
  Professional Services at the Sainsbury Wellcome Centre ........................................................................3
  The Role of the Animal Technician ...........................................................................................................4
  Main Duties and Responsibilities ..............................................................................................................4
Selection Criteria ..........................................................................................................................................6
  Contact Us ..................................................................................................................................................7
  How to Apply .............................................................................................................................................7
Vacancy Reference: 1817248

Job Title: Animal Technician (Neurobiological Research Facility)

Department: Sainsbury Wellcome Centre

Salary: £28,574 - £33,487 per annum inclusive of London Allowance.

Grade: 6

Hours: 36.5 per week (full-time, 1.00 FTE)

Reports to: Head of Neurobiological Research Facility

About the 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 will comprise around 14 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. The full complement of scientists in the Centre is expected to reach around 150 together with circa 50 dedicated support staff.

Further details about the Sainsbury Wellcome Centre can be found at www.sainsburywellcome.org.

The Sainsbury Wellcome Centre 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; there are nine Nobel Prize winners associated with Life Sciences at UCL. The School has a global reputation for teaching, informed by cutting-edge research. A full profile of the School can be found at: http://www.ucl.ac.uk/slms/about-us. The School is structured into four Faculties: Brain Sciences; Life Sciences; Medical Sciences; and Population Health Sciences. SWC is most closely linked with the Faculties of Brain Science and Life Sciences.

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

Professional Services at the Sainsbury Wellcome Centre

The Sainsbury Wellcome Centre has a specialist and experienced professional services team led by the Centre Manager. 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 (https://www.ucl.ac.uk/human-resources/learning-and-development), who run a wide range of training programmes for all staff types and grades.

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. Further information can be found online: https://www.ucl.ac.uk/human-resources/pay-and-staff-benefits.

The Role of the Animal Technician

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.

The nature of this role means that you will be required to work outside of standard office hours to meet the needs of the animals; this will include working one in three weekends and occasional unsociable hours.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

Core Duties

- Familiar with the project licences in use, including severity conditions, adverse effects and humane end points.
- Direct contact with project licence holders and licensees to oversee transgenic mouse breeding programmes and the maintenance of experimental animals.
- Aware of the standards of husbandry and welfare set out in the Home Office Code of Practice and ensure that they are met.
- Contribute to development and implementation of standard operating procedures for the facility.
- Report to the NRF Manager on health and safety issues within the facility.
- Report on environmental conditions in the rooms in which animals are held.
- Contribute to in house training of staff and researchers on basic techniques including Schedule 1 methods.
- Computer entry of cost recovery and breeding data.
- Take deliveries of diet and bedding and movement of supplies within the unit.
- General room cleaning.
- Any other duties as are within the scope and purpose of the role as directed by the line manager.
To ensure the health and safety of students, services users, customers, staff and visitors to premises at all times.

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. Job descriptions are reviewed on a regular basis including at the annual appraisal. As duties and responsibilities change, the job description may be amended in consultation with the post-holder.

The post-holder will be expected to actively follow all UCL policies and procedures including Equal Opportunities, maintain an awareness of Fire and Health & Safety Regulations, attend management meetings and undertake such training and development as may be required for the post.

All staff are required to act professionally, co-operatively and flexibly in line with the requirements of the post.
Selection Criteria

The selection criteria outline the skills, knowledge and experience required in order to perform this role. Applicants will be selected based on how well they demonstrate that they meet the essential, and if appropriate, desirable criteria for this particular role.

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<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>Essential</th>
<th>Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>Minimum of 5 A*-C GCSEs.</td>
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<td>A Home Office Personal License</td>
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<td>Institute of Animal Technology qualification or equivalent.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Knowledge and experience</th>
<th>Essential</th>
<th>Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>Knowledge of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 and EU Directive.</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>Extensive knowledge of small animal procedures.</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>Fully conversant with transgenic technology including knowledge and experience of transgenic breeding and maintenance and tracking of breeding colonies.</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>An understanding of bio-security and in particular its importance when housing immunocompromised animals.</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>An understanding of disease transfer and bio-security control.</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>Experience of safety issues within a working unit.</td>
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<td>Experience of managing or supervising a small team.</td>
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<th>Skills</th>
<th>Essential</th>
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<td>Good written and verbal communication skills.</td>
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<td>Able to work on your own initiative and manage your own time.</td>
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<td>Computer literate with the ability to use databases and systems related to record keeping.</td>
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<td>Able to work effectively and collaboratively as a member of a team and contribute to processes.</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>Excellent attention to detail.</td>
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<th>Other Requirements</th>
<th>Essential</th>
<th>Desirable</th>
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<td>A commitment to your own continuous professional development and willing to undertake further education and training as part of your role.</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>An understanding and appreciation of the mission and research environment of the SWC, and a commitment to the establishment of the SWC as a world-leading research centre.</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>Able and willing to work non-standard hours to meet the needs of the NRF.</td>
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Contact Us

If you have any queries relating to the vacancy or how to apply please contact the SWC HR team, swc.hr@ucl.ac.uk, +44 (0)20 3108 8011.

Applying for the Role

To begin the online application process, please access the advertisement by searching for it on the UCL vacancy search page (http://www.ucl.ac.uk/hr/jobs/) using the vacancy reference number, and click on the “Apply Now” button at the bottom of the vacancy advertisement.

Please complete the online application form, and use the supporting statement section to outline how you meet the selection criteria. Applications will be shortlisted based on the strength of the examples used to demonstrate that the applicant meets the selection criteria.

Please note that there is a limit of 2,500 words to explain how you meet the essential criteria, and a limit of 2,500 words to explain how you meet the desirable criteria.

All candidates will be notified of the outcome of their application.
Pre-employment Checks
Confirmation of appointment will be subject to receipt of satisfactory references, verification of proof of right to work in the UK and to satisfactory pre-employment health and security screening.

Salary
Starting salary will be on the Grade 6 scale according to relevant skills, knowledge, experience and achievement. Staff incrementally progress along the salary scale; the effective date of incremental progression is 01 August each year. You must have completed the period of service stipulated in your contract of employment (typically your probationary period) to be eligible to increment. Incremental progression does not include the discretionary contribution points on the salary scale. Cost of living pay awards are negotiated nationally and are normally effective from 1 August each year.

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.

Conditions of Service
Conditions of Service for Research, Teaching and Professional Services Staff can be found at: https://www.ucl.ac.uk/human-resources/conditions-service-research-teaching-and-professional-services-staff.

Probation
Appointments are subject to a probationary period of 6 months.

Hours of Work and Overtime
UCL’s full time working week is 36.5 hours per week. SWC is willing to consider flexible-working arrangements, subject to discussion and agreement with your line manager. Pre-agreed overtime will be offered as equivalent time off in lieu.

Annual Leave
Staff are entitled to 27 days annual leave per year (pro rata for part-time staff). In addition, staff are entitled to 8 days public and statutory holidays, and around 6 UCL closure days with pay per year.

Location
The Sainsbury Wellcome Centre is located in the heart of London around five minutes’ walk from the main UCL campus. The mainline railway stations at Euston, King’s Cross, St Pancras, Marylebone and Paddington are within easy reach as are the London Underground stations located at Warren Street and Goodge Street.

Equal Opportunities
SWC is committed to the promotion of equality, diversity and inclusion for its staff, students and visitors and is fully supportive of UCL’s policy; the full equality policy statement is available online: https://www.ucl.ac.uk/human-resources/sites/human-resources/files/equal_opportunity_policy_statement.pdf.

SWC is currently working towards an Athena SWAN award.