



London Centre for
Nanotechnology 17-19 Gordon
Street London WC1H 0AH
www.london-nano.com

Job title: Laboratory Technician

Job reference number: 1691308

Grade: UCL Grade 6 £28,014-32,830 (including £3,031 London Allowance) pro rata 50% FTE

Terms and Conditions: In accordance with the conditions of employment as laid down in the relevant UCL Staff policies

Reporting to: Professor Guillaume Charras

Key Duties and Responsibilities:

The Charras group at UCL is seeking a research technician. The laboratory works at the interface between Biophysics and Cell Biology seeks to understand the link between signalling and cell mechanics with applications to cell and tissue morphogenesis.

The post-holder will be responsible for running the day-to-day activities of the laboratory, superintend the supply of materials and carry out experimental research under the supervision of Professor Charras.

The person must have demonstrated ability to organize supplies and reagents, must be adept at multi-tasking and organizing their work to meet deadlines. He/She must have a proven track record of working in multi-disciplinary teams.

The appointed candidate will attend and contribute the weekly laboratory meeting besides ensuring smooth and ordered running of research in the laboratory.

This research position is funded for 2 years.

Key requirements:

The successful candidate will have a BSc in a relevant field of research such as Biochemistry, Cell Biology, or Molecular Biology and possess knowledge in at least one of the following methods: immunohistochemistry, immunoblotting, and molecular biology.

Past experience in technical posts is highly welcome even though a can do attitude, innate enthusiasm, will be determinant for a successful application and to fulfil the tasks requested in the post.

Candidates should also have excellent written and verbal communication.

Duties and Responsibilities

1. Maintaining stocks of materials and chemicals, ordering when depleted, keeping records of stock usage and maintaining a laboratory budget.
2. Keeping up to date records of cell lines, cDNA constructs, and managing this database.
3. Ensuring that laboratory equipment is maintained and serviced.
4. Assisting in the research by, for example, running experiments, providing advice to students and staff on the operation of equipment and replacing faulty equipment.
5. Cleaning glassware and equipment when necessary.
6. General responsibility for the cleanliness and tidiness of the laboratory on a daily basis, including the cleaning of lab equipment and work areas etc.
7. Complying with the laboratory and university codes of practice and risk assessments associated with the unit's activities.
8. Entering data into relevant systems.
9. Carrying out duties as determined by Professor Charras or Dr Thorogate.
10. Keeping clear written records of work undertaken.
11. Maintaining the highest personal levels of skill in laboratory and organisational techniques and precision, reliability and efficacy in all these different duties.
12. To contribute to the overall activities of the research team and department as required.

As duties and responsibilities change, the job description may be reviewed and amended in consultation with the postholder.

The postholder will carry out any other duties that are within the scope, spirit and purpose of the job as requested by Professor Charras or Dr Thorogate.

The postholder will be expected to actively follow UCL policies including Equal Opportunities and Race Equality policies.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Educational Qualifications

Essential: Applicants should have a BSc Degree in a relevant area of Life Sciences

Essential Experience

- Ability to carry out experiments with at least one of the following techniques: immunocytochemistry, immunoblotting, and molecular biology
- Familiarity with IT applications, including Word, Excel and E-mail
- Preparing stock solutions
- Ability to maintain clear, comprehensive and accurate records of the work performed
- Ability to maintain clear, comprehensive and accurate records of laboratory stocks including chemical reagents, cell lines, and plasmid DNA constructs
- Good communication skills
- Good level of manual dexterity and co-ordination
- Ability to perform minor repairs to equipment
- Training and background in health and safety relating to laboratories in the biomedical sciences area
- Ability to work to deadlines and willingness to work under pressure from time to time
- Ability to conduct risk assessments for experiments and laboratories

Essential Skills and Abilities

- Exposure to a laboratory environment
- Experience in manual handling tasks

Desirable Skills and Abilities

- Previous experience in maintaining a laboratory would be an advantage
- Previous experience with cell culture, microscope imaging, biochemistry would be an advantage

Essential Personal Qualities

- Hard working, motivated, conscientious with good time management skills and sharp attention to detail
- Ability to work under supervision
- Willingness and ability to work collaboratively with colleagues
- To display a professional attitude towards colleagues, students and others
- Flexible attitude to work, including the ability to take up new tasks when required and without supervision
- Sensitivity to the relative urgency of tasks
- Committed to UCL's policy of equal opportunity and the ability to work harmoniously with colleagues of all cultures and backgrounds

London Centre for Nanotechnology

The London Centre for Nanotechnology is an interdisciplinary joint enterprise between University College London and Imperial College London. In bringing together world-class infrastructure and leading nanotechnology research activities, the Centre aims to attain the critical mass to compete with the best facilities abroad. Research programmes are aligned to three key areas, namely Planet Care, Healthcare and Information Technology and bridge together biomedical, physical and engineering sciences.

The Centre occupies a purpose-built eight storey facility in Gordon Street, Bloomsbury, as well as extensive facilities within different departments at South Kensington. LCN researchers have access to state-of-the-art clean-room, characterisation, fabrication, manipulation and design laboratories. This experimental research is complemented by leading edge modelling, visualisation and theory.

LCN has strong relationships with the broader nanotechnology and commercial communities, and is involved in many major collaborations. As the world's only such facility to be located in the heart of a metropolis LCN has superb access to corporate, investment and industrial partners. LCN is at the forefront of training in nanotechnology, and has a strong media presence aimed at educating the public and bringing transparency to this emerging science.

About UCL

Founded in 1826, UCL was the first English university established after Oxford and Cambridge, the first to admit students regardless of race, class, religion or gender, and the first to provide systematic teaching of law, architecture and medicine. In the government's most recent Research Assessment Exercise, 59 UCL departments achieved top ratings of 5* and 5, indicating research quality of international excellence. UCL is in the top five world universities in the 2014 THES-QS World University Rankings, and in the top 20 of the 2014 league table of the top 500 world universities produced by the Shanghai Jiao Tong University. UCL alumni include Marie Stopes, Jonathan Dimbleby, Lord Woolf, Alexander Graham Bell, and members of the band Coldplay.

UCL is in practice a university in its own right, although constitutionally a college within the federal University of London. With an annual turnover around £1 billion, it is financially and managerially independent of the University of London.

The UCL community: UCL currently employs approximately 8,000 staff and includes academic units as diverse as the Slade School of Fine Art, the Bartlett School and the Institute of Child Health. In total, there are around 70 academic departments and institutes whose activities span the following: arts and humanities, social and historical sciences, law, architecture and the built environment, engineering, mathematical and physical sciences, life and clinical sciences, and medicine. UCL's academic and research staff are a truly international community with more than a quarter coming from 84 countries outside the UK.

12,000 undergraduates and 7,000 graduate students study at UCL, of whom over 25% come from 130 countries outside the UK. UCL offers 275 undergraduate programmes and more than 220 taught postgraduate programmes as well as the opportunity to carry out postgraduate research in all of its subjects.

Application procedure

Further details about the post and the application procedure are available at www.london-nano.com. If you are unable to apply online please contact Ms Denise Ottley at the London Centre for Nanotechnology, d.ottley@ucl.ac.uk for advice. Informal inquiries about the position and project should be directed to Professor Guillaume Charras (g.charras@ucl.ac.uk) who will be supervising the position.

University College London is committed to equality of opportunity and of eliminating discrimination. All employees are expected to adhere to the Principles set out in its Equal Opportunities in Employment Policy, Promoting Race Equality policy and Disability Policy and all other relevant guidance/practice frameworks.