



**Title of the post:** Laboratory-Based Research Technician  
(Full-time, Three-year Fixed Term Contract)

**Department:** Agriculture and Environment

**Reporting to:** Senior Lecturer

### **The Role**

To provide technical support for Alltech *in vitro* studies, primarily focused on characterising total mixed rations for their rumen fermentation kinetics, help identify fermentation kinetic parameters that could be used to improve diet formulation software and assist in the evaluation of dietary supplements. Transfer and manipulate data to facilitate curve fitting and statistical appraisal of data sets for the production of final reports. Update the excel spreadsheet to ensure that trend curves reflect data from appropriate region of Europe. To be technically competent with gas chromatography equipment for the determination of volatile fatty acids (VFA) and gaseous methane. Assist with undertaking other Alltech sponsored rumen *in vitro* research projects. The successful candidate should be able to work autonomously and take responsibility for receipt and management of samples, proximate analysis via wet chemistry, responsibility for delivering data in a timebound manner. Quality control and communication with the team.

### **Main Duties and Responsibilities**

The role is within the Department of Agriculture and Environment and reports directly to ALLTECH IFM project lead, Dr James Huntington. In particular, the successful candidate will work on the Alltech IFM project.

### **Areas of Responsibility**

1. The operation, demonstration and maintenance of the IFM equipment and ancillary equipment including the gas chromatography (VFA and CH<sub>4</sub>), fibre, fat and plate reader equipment.
2. The preparation of forage samples for IFM and subsequent analyses to support the IFM report detail.
3. Using specialist technical knowledge to resolve faults and equipment failures.
4. Maintain and support the continued development of the IFM data spreadsheet.
5. Collation of IFM experimental data for the preparation and publication of IFM reports.

## **Responsibility for compliance**

6. Ensuring that personnel using the Fermentation Kinetics Research Laboratory (containment 2) comply with the requirements of the Health & Safety at Work Act and other regulations, including the University and department policy.
7. Responsibility for the control and maintenance of the Alltech IFM research group's growing stock of instrumentation equipment and keep all equipment under safe storage whilst maintaining a close control on loss and damage.
8. Be responsible for maintaining calibration records for instrumentation equipment as well as sourcing, managing or performing calibrations as necessary.

## **Additional responsibilities**

9. Attending courses, conferences and meeting for the purposes of personal development.
10. Taking an active part in the corporate life of the University College.
11. Such other duties as may reasonably be requested by the Line Manager.

## Person Specification

	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>
Qualifications	Be educated to degree level in an appropriate scientific qualification or equivalent experience	
Experience	Practical laboratory experience and a genuine interest in research.  Computer literacy with experience of using Microsoft Office suite applications, SAS and database recording	Knowledge of forage analysis techniques, familiarity with GC.  Experience with <i>in vitro</i> fermentation systems or microbiology techniques.  Experience in sample process or management
Knowledge/Skills	Excellent verbal and written communication skills and be able to interact at all levels	An understanding of ruminant nutrition
Personal Qualities	Flexible and prepared to work autonomously or in conjunction with other researchers and our commercial partner Alltech	

## Conditions of Service

The national recommendations which have arisen from the negotiations between UCEA and the unions recognised at national level, the Joint Negotiating Committee for Higher Education Staff (JNCHES), directly affect the terms and conditions insofar as they have been adopted by the Board of Governors.

**Salary** The commencing salary will be within £27,181 to £29,605 per annum. The point of entry will be dependent upon relevant qualifications and experience. Salaries are paid monthly, in arrears, by credit transfer on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of the month.

**Contract Term** This is fixed term post for a period of 3 years. The employment may be terminated during the course of the contract by either party giving one months' **working** notice in writing.

**Hours of Work** The routine working week is 37 hours over Monday to Sunday, inclusive. There may be a requirement for overtime working from time to time and time off in lieu may be allowed for agreed hours worked in excess of 37 per week.

**Holidays** The annual holiday entitlement is 22 working days, plus 3 University closure days and Bank Holidays. Annual holiday entitlement rises to 25 working days with 5 years' service. The holiday year runs from 1 August to 31 July and in the holiday year in which the employment commences or terminates the holiday entitlement will accrue on a pro-rata basis for each complete week of service. The timing of holidays is subject to the agreement of the Line Manager.

**Sick Leave** During periods of certified sickness the post-holder will be eligible to receive sick pay in accordance with the University Sick Pay Policy. The payment of sick pay is subject to compliance with the University rules for the notification and verification of sickness absence, details of which will be provided to the successful applicant upon commencement of employment.

**Pension** The post-holder will be entitled to join the university's pension scheme, subject to its terms and conditions. Full details of the Scheme will be provided to the successful applicant upon commencement of employment.

**Exclusivity of Service** You are required to devote your full-time attention and abilities to your duties during working hours and to act in the best interests of the University at all times. Accordingly, you must not, without written consent of the University, undertake employment or engagement including external consultancy, which might interfere with the performance of your duties or conflict with the interests of the University.

It follows that, regardless of whether you are employed on a full-time or part-time contract, you are required to notify your line manager of any employment or engagement which you intend to undertake whilst in the employment of the University (including any such employment or engagement which commenced before

your employment under this contract). Your line manager will then notify you within 10 working days whether such employment or engagement is prohibited.

**Criminal  
Convictions**

The post involves the opportunity for access to children and young persons under the age of 18. For this reason the University is entitled to take into account any criminal convictions, cautions or impending case(s) that it considers to be relevant to this post.

The post is exempt from the provisions of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. This means that applicants are not entitled to withhold information about convictions which for other purposes are “spent” under the provisions of the Act.

Applicants must therefore complete the part of the application form declaring any criminal convictions and cautions from any court or police authority. The successful applicant will have to undergo a Criminal Records Bureau check before an appointment can be made.

**References**

Candidates should ensure that they provide full details of the name and postal address of their referees. Please include e-mail addresses and telephone numbers wherever possible.

Referees should include your present, or most recent, employer. References will normally be taken up immediately in respect of candidates shortlisted for interview. **If you do not wish any reference to be taken up at this stage, please enter an ‘X’ in the relevant box provided on the application form.**