

Job description

Biological Services Unit Trainee Auxiliary/Animal Technician

March 2026

Directorate:	Research Services
Pay grade / staff group:	Scientific Profession Grade 8
Hours / duration:	Full time (35 hours per week) Monday to Friday with some unsocial hours/rota requirement
Reports to:	Facility Manager

Main purpose of the job

The prime objective and role of a Trainee Auxiliary/Animal Technician is to gain experience in animal husbandry techniques, working within a framework of the Home Office Codes of Practice through on-the-job training. As well as deliver efficient cleaning and portering services to support the BSU technicians. The post holder will help maintain prescribed hygiene standards, ensure safe and efficient use of materials and chemicals, and contribute to the care and welfare of research animals at ICR

By demonstration of knowledge and experience in providing the highest standards of care and welfare to the animals, the opportunity for regrading will be given.

Our mission is
to make the
discoveries that
defeat cancer.

BSU Trainee Animal Technician

Duties and responsibilities

Key duties

To provide routine husbandry to the animals within the BSU.

To ensure adequate provision of food and water as described in Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

Daily checking of cages and animals for signs of husbandry and welfare requirements.
Reporting observations to supervisor.

Cleaning out of animals as directed and to facility routines.

Maintain all working areas to the acceptable standard by general cleaning as per SOP.

Provide out of hours, weekend and public holiday cover on a rota basis for which overtime will be paid.

Participate in facility cleaning, cage-washing and preparation of cages.

Collect and deliver equipment, consumables, and waste within the BSU and across ICR sites, following local rules.

Prepare water, cages and equipment with bedding and enrichment; package and sterilise as required.

Record levels of achievement and expertise in personal training records.

Any other duties that are consistent with the nature and grade of the post that may be required.

General

All staff must ensure that they familiarise themselves with and adhere to any ICR policies that are relevant to their work and that all personal and sensitive personal data is treated with the utmost confidentiality and in line with the General Data Protection Regulations.

To work in accordance with the ICR's Values.

To promote a safe, healthy and fair environment for people to work, where bullying and harassment will not be tolerated.

Trainee animal technicians are expected to work under close supervision and to be reliable and trustworthy.

The position involves working in small groups, therefore an ability to work as part of a team, often in close contact with others, is required.

Trainee animal technicians must always demonstrate a humane approach to the animals in their care and the hygiene standards of the unit.

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This job description is a reflection of the present position and is subject to review and alteration in detail and emphasis in the light of future changes or developments.

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Person Specification

Education and Knowledge

Passes in four subjects at GCSE level (or equivalent), including English Language and Mathematics or a Science subject.	Essential
Good level of education including an interest in Science.	Essential
Working knowledge of computer databases.	Desirable
Demonstrated interest in animal care and welfare.	Desirable

Skills & Experience

Previous experience in the role is not necessary, as full training will be given.	
Experience of teamwork.	Desirable
Common sense.	Essential
Attention to detail.	Essential
Good level of both physical and mental fitness	Essential
Empathy towards animals.	Essential
Good level of numeracy and literacy.	Essential
Animal handling experience.	Desirable
Good interpersonal skills	Desirable
Technical skills.	Desirable

General

Interest in animals.	Essential
Ability to work independently.	Essential
Reliable, dependable and conscientious.	Essential
Willingness to work additional hours such as when and including weekends, public holidays via a rota system.	Essential
Ability to work as part of a small team.	Essential

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About our organisation

The Institute of Cancer Research, London, is one of the world's most influential cancer research institutions, with an outstanding track record of achievement dating back more than 100 years. Our mission is to make the discoveries that defeat cancer.

As well as being one of the UK's leading higher education institutions in research quality and impact, the ICR is consistently ranked as one of the world's most successful for industry collaboration. As a member institution of the University of London, we also provide postgraduate higher education of international distinction.

We are also a charity and rely on the support of partner organisations, funders, donors and the general public.

[Read more](#) to find out more about our history, culture, and achievements, and how our funders, supporters and partnerships help drive forward our work.

Our values

The ICR has a highly skilled and committed workforce, with a wide variety of roles, each requiring different skills. But whether you work as a researcher, or work as part of our corporate team, your work and behaviour is underpinned by these six [values](#). They are what bring us together as one team – as 'One ICR'.



Our values set out how each of us at the ICR, works together to meet our mission – to make the discoveries that defeat cancer.

They summarise our desired behaviours, attitudes and culture – how we value one another and how we take pride in the work we do, to deliver impact for people with cancer and their loved ones.”

Professor Kristian Helin
Chief Executive

