Faculty of Biological Sciences
School of Biomedical Sciences

Summer Research Placement
8 weeks, between [March – September 2026]

Job Summary

Stipend is £270 per week.

Informal enquiries may be made to y.kutsenkoshchegolska@leeds.ac.uk

To apply, please send your CV and a covering letter (200-300 words maximum)

Closing Date: 5pm on 5th February 2026
Interviews: 19th February 2026

Job Description

Reports to: y.kutsenkoshchegolska@leeds.ac.uk

Main Duties and Responsibilities

1. **Cell Culture and Maintenance**
    a. Grow and maintain mammalian cell lines under sterile conditions.
    b. Prepare media and reagents for routine culture work.
2. **Molecular Biology Techniques**
    a. Assist in CRISPR/Cas9-mediated gene knockout and siRNA knockdown experiments.
    b. Perform plasmid preparation and transfection for gene overexpression studies.
3. **Functional Assays**
    a. Conduct live-cell imaging using fluorescent calcium indicators.
    b. Help set up and run FACS-based sorting for phenotypic screening.
4. **Data Collection and Analysis**
    a. Record experimental observations accurately.
    b. Perform basic image analysis and quantitative data processing under supervision.
5. **Laboratory Organization**
    a. Maintain lab notebooks and ensure proper labelling of samples.
    b. Follow safety protocols and contribute to a clean, organized workspace.
6. **Collaboration**
    a. Communicate findings and progress during team meetings.
    b. Assist senior researchers with experiments.

Person Specification

Essential

1. **Currently enrolled in a molecular biology, biochemistry, or related undergraduate program.**
2. **Technical Skills**
    a. Basic understanding of cell biology and molecular genetics.
    b. Basic understanding of pipetting, sterile technique, and solution preparation.
3. **Analytical Skills**
    a. Ability to follow protocols accurately and maintain detailed records.
    b. Basic proficiency in data handling (Excel or similar tools).
4. **Soft Skills**
    a. Strong commitment, attention to detail and willingness to learn.
    b. Good communication and teamwork abilities.
5. **Availability for regular lab work and meetings throughout the project duration.**

Desirable (optional to include this)

1. **Prior Experience with mammalian cell culture or molecular cloning. Experience with fluorescence microscopy or imaging software (e.g., ImageJ).**
2. **Familiarity with basic data analysis tools or programming (Python/R) for image or signal processing.**
3. **Demonstrated enthusiasm for sensory biology, calcium signaling, or gene function studies.**
4. **Ability to troubleshoot minor experimental issues independently.**
5. **Interest in contributing to scientific writing or understanding primary literature.**

Additional Information

Details of the terms and conditions of employment for all staff at the university, including information on pensions and benefits, are available on the Human Resources web pages accessible via the links on the right hand side, or at http://www.leeds.ac.uk/hr/index.htm

Criminal Record Disclosures

A Criminal Records Disclosure is not required for this position. However, applicants who have unspent convictions must indicate this in the 'other personal details' section of the application.

Disabled Applicants

The post is located in the Faculty of Biological Sciences. Disabled applicants wishing to review access to the building are invited to contact the department direct. Additional information may be sought from the Recruitment Officer, email disclosure@leeds.ac.uk or tel + 44 (0)113 343 1723.

Disabled applicants are not obliged to inform employers of their disability but will still be covered by the Disability Discrimination Act once their disability becomes known.

Further information for applicants with disabilities, impairments or health conditions is available in the applicant guidance.

University Values

All staff are expected to operate in line with the university's values and standards, which work as an integral part of our strategy and set out the principles of how we work together. More information about the university's strategy and values is available at http://www.leeds.ac.uk/comms/strategy/