

Position Title: Research Technician I
Department: Animal & Food Sciences
College: CANR
Location: Newark, DE
Pay: \$20–\$23 per hour, commensurate with experience
To Apply: Please email Carl Schmidt schmidtc@udel.edu

Context of the Job

Under the general direction of the Principal Investigator, the Research Technician I performs a variety of technical laboratory tests and research procedures in the field of molecular biology. This role is essential for the daily operation of the laboratory, ensuring data integrity, maintaining safety standards, and fostering a collaborative learning environment for undergraduate and graduate students.

Major Responsibilities

1. Technical Research Support (50%)

- Perform a variety of technical laboratory tests on research samples including DNA cloning, PCR, and gel electrophoresis.
- Execute bacterial transformation and maintain cell and tissue cultures with high precision.
- Ensure the safe handling and maintenance of bacterial cultures in accordance with biosafety protocols.
- Perform preliminary analysis and interpretation of experimental data; maintain accurate and detailed records of all procedures and results.

2. Laboratory Operations & Compliance (20%)

- Coordinate all specimen handling, ensuring proper labeling, storage, and tracking.
- Manage laboratory inventory: monitor supplies, place orders, and organize materials needed for daily operations.
- Coordinate the appropriate disposal of chemical and glass waste generated from lab operations, ensuring compliance with University Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) standards.

3. Training and Mentorship (20%)

- Educate and train undergraduate and graduate students in molecular biology techniques and laboratory safety protocols.
- Provide technical guidance to students and lab personnel to ensure consistency in experimental execution.

4. Administrative & Professional Collaboration (10%)

- Utilize proficient computer skills to input, edit, save, and retrieve research data.
- Maintain effective communication and work collaboratively with faculty, students, and industry representatives to advance research goals.

Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in Life Sciences (Biology, Biochemistry, Animal Science, or a related field).
- Demonstrated proficiency in molecular biology techniques (PCR, Cloning, Electrophoresis).
- Proficient computer skills for data management and reporting.

- Effective interpersonal and communication skills; ability to follow complex oral and written instructions.
- Proven ability to train others and work effectively with a diverse group of stakeholders, including faculty, students, and industry partners.
- Must be committed to fostering a workplace culture of belonging, where diversity is celebrated and equity is a core value.
- Demonstrates an understanding and consideration of the differing needs and concerns of individuals with varying identities, cultures, and backgrounds.

Essential Functions & Physical Requirements

- **Physical Demands:**
 - Ability to stand or sit for extended periods while performing repetitive laboratory tasks (e.g., pipetting, loading gels, or microscopic work).
 - Sufficient fine motor skills and manual dexterity to handle small samples, delicate equipment, and micro-tubes.
 - Ability to lift, move, and carry laboratory supplies and equipment weighing up to 25–30 lbs.
 - Visual acuity to read digital displays, monitor experiments, and distinguish color reactions or bands on electrophoresis gels.
- **Work Environment:**
 - Work is performed in a laboratory setting with potential exposure to biological hazards (bacterial cultures) and hazardous chemicals (solvents, acids, etc.).
 - Exposure to sharp objects (glass waste, needles) requiring strict adherence to safety protocols.
 - Routine use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including lab coats, gloves, and safety eyewear.
 - May involve occasional work in cold-room environments or around loud equipment such as centrifuges and fume hoods.