



Background

FA Bio (FungiAlert) is a young, growing, and an exciting agri-tech company that has developed world leading technology for understanding soil microbial communities. Our mission is to increase crop productivity sustainably, whilst minimising agriculture's environmental impact, by discovering superior microorganisms for the development of bio-products. After having secured a seed investment, we are growing our technical team to implement our vision of protecting our natural ecosystems by providing game-changing bio-products for agriculture that can replace chemical inputs.

We are committed to promoting a diverse and inclusive workplace that harnesses personal development and focuses on excellence. We offer a range of family-friendly, inclusive employment policies, flexible working arrangements, etc., to support staff from different backgrounds and personal needs.

Job Title: Glasshouse Technician (in Microbiology Library)

The candidate will primarily carry out glasshouse experiment setup, follow-up, and end-of-experiment tasks, including sample processing, measurement-taking, and recording. Additional tasks will include laboratory maintenance and preparation of materials and stocks. The candidate will also be required to support other workflows when needed, which would involve handling microbial cultures (especially fungal strains) and supporting fermentation activities. Experience working with plant material is essential, and working with microorganisms in an aseptic environment is desirable.

Benefits

- Competitive salary, dependent on experience.
- Generous EMI Options Scheme.
- Flexible working hours.
- Employer-contributed pension scheme.
- Cycle to Work Scheme.
- Season Ticket Loan.
- Free onsite parking.
- Employee Assistance and Wellbeing Programme.
- Subsidised onsite gym.
- Subsidised canteen.

Salary

£26,500 to £29,500 (dependent on experience) FTE – full-time, with time flexibility.

Location

Rothamsted Research Centre, AL5 2JQ, Harpenden

Tasks & Responsibilities

- Setting up of glasshouse experiments and follow-up progress
- Measurement and recording of different plant variables, like plant length, chlorophyll content etc.
- Root-washing
- Carry out the fresh weight and dry weight measurements of shoots and roots
- Glasshouse and laboratory organisation and maintenance - involving clearing and cleaning of work areas and participation in lab cleaning duties, as and when required.



- Clearing and cleaning material used, including washing-up and biowaste autoclaving.
- Stocks and reagents preparation and management.
- Maintenance of laboratory instruments, including their calibration.
- Support with tasks such as preparation of microbiological media, isolation of strains, microbial culture maintenance, identification using molecular biology techniques, and data collection.
- Support other projects within the company whenever necessary.
- Understand and apply SOPs, COSHH/Risk Assessments, Quality Control policies, Health and Safety, GLP, ensuring procedures are always followed.
- Work with ELN and LIMS data systems to ensure data is collected, entered, secured, and maintained in accordance with Company's guidelines.

Experience required:

Essential:

- Either:
 - o (1) BSc degree or equivalent with a core in agronomy, plant pathology etc. and at least 1 year of practical experience in an agronomy or plant-pathology lab.
- Or
 - o (2) At least 4 years of relevant practical industry experience working in an agronomy laboratory and/or plant-pathology lab, carrying out relevant tasks such as glasshouse trials or in-planta studies.
- Experience carrying out glasshouse experiments and/or in-planta studies with arable crops, and plant-sample processing.

Desirable:

- Arable crops plant physiology, plant pathology and plant-microbe interaction knowledge and/or experience.
- Experience with fungi cultures manipulation, and basic knowledge about fungi growth and morphology.
- Experience handling Biosafety Level Class 2 microbes (fungi/bacteria) working in aseptic conditions, using good microbiological practices to limit contamination.
- Experience with Molecular Biology techniques such as genomic DNA extraction, PCR, electrophoresis, etc.

Skills

- Good time management & multi-tasking skills.
- The candidate will need to be self-motivated and capable of working independently, planning and taking responsibility for their work using initiative and seeking advice where necessary.
- Teamworking and effective communication – the candidate will need to demonstrate successful team working skills, adapt to team working practices and develop effective communication skills with all the team members.
- Methodical – pays attention to detail, does things carefully and in an ordered way.
- Dynamic - understands the priorities and adapts well to accommodate changes in a start-up environment.

If you are interested in becoming part of FA-Bio's team, please send us your CV and personal statement to info@fa-bio.net quoting job reference FA_JOB_023 before 23rd August 2023.

We look forward to hearing from you!