



**UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN
JOB DESCRIPTION**

JOB TITLE	Agricultural Technician				
DEPARTMENT	Lincoln Institute for Agri-Food Technology				
LOCATION	Riseholme and the Brayford Pool				
JOB NUMBER	COS560	GRADE	5	DATE	November 2022
REPORTS TO	Technical Resource Manager				

CONTEXT

This post is based within the Lincoln Institute for Agri-Food Technology (LIAT) and will provide technical support in the design, preparation and maintenance of agricultural trials, experiments and demonstration areas for teaching and research purposes.

Key areas of focus for LIAT are agri-robotics, precision agriculture, agronomy, agroforestry, engineering, soils and water. These topics are indicative of what is delivered now but these areas will increase and become more varied as our research and teaching portfolios grow.

An area undergoing recent expansion within LIAT is Lincoln Agri Robotics (LAR), a £6.4M project funded by the Expanding Excellence in England fund via Research England. The project aims to research and develop innovative technology and process solutions for the agri-food pipeline, with a focus on arable crops (e.g. wheat) and horticulture (e.g. strawberries and garden vegetables).

The LIAT team also work closely with colleagues from many specialisms across the University to deliver team-based projects that are relevant to the future needs of agriculture and the agri-food industry.

This Agricultural Technician post will provide specialist technical support to the staff and students working with and associated with LAR and the wider LIAT team. The post holder will play a leading role to support the team in undertaking research and innovation activities on agricultural cereal, fruit and vegetable crops. An essential part of the role will be the support and facilitation of key training programmes, including workshops and summer schools.

LIAT is a rapidly developing institute in the College of Science focussed on research and learning. LIAT's activities are extensive with impact on both an academic and commercial scale. They range from delivering professional short courses in agricultural subjects, through innovative applied biological, engineering and computer science research to international projects in developing countries.

JOB PURPOSE

The role is to provide specialised technical, agricultural support for the LIAT team.

The post includes ensuring staff are provided with support across academic teaching including the BASIS short course provision, and the MSc in Agri-Food Technology.

The post is pivotal to ensuring liaison and continuity across the team helping to support academics across the College of Science with LIAT based research projects.

Other responsibilities include providing practical support for research and teaching. This may include establishing and maintaining crop trials, crop and soil sampling, maintenance of irrigation systems, maintenance, and monitoring of environmental sensors, assisting the agri-robotics team with field research and working with external stakeholders.

Assistance will also be given to MSc and PhD research students during periods of preparing and implementing practical projects.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

General

- Interpretation of external requirements to produce solutions and/or advice to produce a high level of learning support.
- Have a thorough understanding of the techniques and procedures relating to LIAT research projects and the services offered by the University.
- Writing and production of instruction sheets and guidance material.
- Point of reference for other team members for guidance and advice concerning research provision and access to specific project areas.
- Internal and external liaison to maintain and build relationships and contacts essential to the effectiveness of the role and the long term reputation and growth of LIAT.
- Operate as a member of the team to shape future external engagement of LIAT.
- Decision making on routine matters with consultation with colleagues and implementing ways of improving the efficiency of tasks.
- Attention to detail when setting up research projects to ensure they are correctly set up and recorded.
- Carry out tasks requiring a level of training and skill.
- Provide demonstration and guidance to others in the team.
- Train or instruct and assist in the supervised assessment of students on standard tasks or activities and provide feedback on the same.
- Operate at all times within health and safety restrictions associated with the specialised area of work.
- Spray application of pesticides and fertilisers - PA1 and PA6 desirable, otherwise training will be provided.
- Maintenance of equipment.
- Excellent practical skills.
- Understanding of agriculture.

Administrative Duties

- Take responsibility for some day to day clerical and administrative activities associated with the research and teaching activities of LIAT, such monitoring of teaching and research resources, placing orders when required and monitoring of expenditure within a set budget.
- Report progress and challenges as a member of the department's regular Crops Group meetings.
- Contribute to recommendations for future crops plans to support effective organisation and space allocation for new and existing projects.

- Source new suppliers in line with requirements to purchase equipment and resources as required.
- Advise on recommended purchases for new purchases and work within a budget.
- Monitor the maintenance and as necessary repair or replacement of equipment, to ensure continuity of provision.
- Monitor appropriate Health and Safety evaluations for all activities.

Demonstration

- Demonstrate practical procedures and techniques to undergraduate and postgraduate students as part of a module or course, or where they are engaging in additional university sponsored activities, when requested by the academic in charge.
- Be responsible for coaching and guiding academic staff and students in the techniques, procedures, complex processes and specialist systems.
- Be responsible for producing written complex instruction sheets and guides for students to use in the laboratory/field.

Provision of Technical Advice

- Provide technical advice to undergraduate project and research students and researchers in the design of experiments or equipment.
- Advise Managers and Academic staff on developments in field, workshop and lab procedures/methods and new equipment (including costs) that may be available and how this would benefit the area and students.
- Train members of staff in technical skills with the aim of transferring knowledge and experience.
- Be main point of reference to colleagues for guidance and advice in all aspects of field work processes and equipment

Liaison and Networking

- Build and maintain relationships with colleagues across the University and external parties, e.g. suppliers, contractors etc.
- Communicate with the public in order to promote the services and initiatives of LIAT.
- Where directed by Line Manager, attend internal and external working parties or committees.

Health and Safety

- Contribute towards ensuring safety regulations are followed. Conduct risk /COSHH assessment. Instruct students in safe working practices including overseeing activities in the labs.
- Instruct students in safe working practices including overseeing activities as appropriate during day to day activities on campus and during practical classes.

In addition to the above, undertake such duties as may reasonably be requested and that are commensurate with the nature and grade of the post.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Key working relationships/networks	
Internal	External
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Line Manager• Academic colleagues across LIAT• Director of LIAT• Deputy Director of LIAT• LIAT Professional Services team• College Programme Leaders• LIAT technical and engineering team• Farm & Estate Manager and Assistant• Riseholme Grounds team• Health and Safety Officers• Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stakeholders, customers, clients, research partners and commercial partners including member of the farming community.• Relevant academic and professional groups• Relevant national, regional and international networks• Professional visitors



**UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN
PERSON SPECIFICATION**

JOB TITLE	Agricultural Technician	JOB NUMBER	COS560
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Selection Criteria	Essential (E) or Desirable (D)	Where Evidenced Application (A) Interview (I) Presentation (P) References (R)
Qualifications:		
HNC level qualification or equivalent experience	D	A
Spraying qualification (PA1 & PA6)	D	A
Experience:		
Previous experience of working in a collaborative research environment	D	A/I
Previous experience of working with commercial partners	D	A/I
Previous experience of working in field trials/fresh produce.	D	A
Experience of driving small tractors	E	A
Experience of using chainsaws	D	A
Experience of working in a field-based environment.	E	A/I
Skills and Knowledge:		
Excellent interpersonal skills	E	A/I
Good written & verbal communication skills to enable explanation of technical issues and processes	E	A/I
Excellent technical and practical skills	E	A/I
Appropriate IT skills	E	A/I
Budgeting skills	E	A/I
Ability to carry out and document tasks in an organised, methodical manner with attention to detail	E	A/I
Excellent organisational and administrative skills	D	A/I
Knapsack spraying, crop management and assessment	D	A/I
Ability to keep and manage good records	E	A/I
Management of confidential information	E	A/I
Support both UG and PG education relating to agriculture, soil and water.	D	A/I
Competencies and Personal Attributes:		
Enthusiastic and flexible approach to work	E	I
Effective team worker	E	A/I
Attention to detail	A	A/I
Customer orientated approach to work	E	A/I
Professional and courteous manner	E	I
Proactive and able to demonstrate initiative	E	A/I

Business Requirements:		
Willingness to work flexible hours on occasions to accommodate the needs of business	E	I
Knowledge of agriculture/countryside management	E	A/I
Willingness to undertake further training for using specialist equipment and/or courses to expand knowledge in the sector.	E	A/I
Willingness to work outside of usual business hours on occasion.	E	I

Essential Requirements are those, without which, a candidate would not be able to do the job. **Desirable Requirements** are those which would be useful for the post holder to possess and will be considered when more than one applicant meets the essential requirements.

Author	LS	HRBP	AH
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