# Research Technician

*Full Time*

*Fixed Term for 12 months*

*Salary: £ 37,999*

*Location: MRC Mary Lyon Centre, Harwell, OX11 0RD*

**About the Role**

The research technician (funded by the Academy of Medical Sciences) will work together with Dr Daniel Johnson from the Cardiovascular Cluster in the School of Life, Health and Chemical Sciences on the RiSCA-AF project. This project will utilize various experimental techniques to unravel mechanisms of atrial fibrillation, with the ultimate aim of designing novel therapeutics.

The post holder’s main responsibility will be to support research and other activities carried out by the academic researchers in the field of cellular cardiac electrophysiology, calcium imaging and cell culture. The post holder will be based at the MRC Mary Lyon Centre in Harwell, where the Open University has laboratory and office space allocated to them.

**Key Responsibilities**

The key roles and responsibilities include:

* Day to day management of animal colonies and in vivo experiments to include breeding strategies and non-surgical interventions to assess cardiac electrophysiology and cardiac function
* Ensuring compliance with all relevant regulatory and health and safety requirements
* Single cell patch clamping and calcium imaging
* In vitro assays of ion channel abundance and function
* Cell culture and co-culturing of myocytes and adipocytes
* Working with iPSC cardiomyocytes
* Planning and delivery of experiments in line with programme of research
* Training and supervision of other laboratory members in relevant methodologies where you hold expertise
* Communicating research findings to lay and scientific audiences in written, oral, web pages and other media formats
* Participating actively to relevant scientific, laboratory and wider meetings
* Maintaining an exemplary record of experimental data and analysis and ensuring compliance with open research principles and data archival and sharing
* Continue to update knowledge and skills in line with advances in research field

**Skills and Experience**

**Essential:**

* Hold at least a Bachelors degree in Biomedical Sciences, Pharmacology or Physiology (with some knowledge of cardiac electrophysiology)
* Hold an active Home Office Personal Licence with surgical procedures and general anaesthesia competencies
* Ability to evaluate and communicate complex interdisciplinary data
* Good communication skills (written, spoken English) and ability to liaise across specialties
* Excellent time management and interpersonal skills
* Flexible approach to dealing with research issues as they arise
* A record of research and/or knowledge exchange that is commensurate to the position

## About the Unit

STEM

**Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics**

The Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) is comprised of:

* School of Computing & Communications
* School of Environment, Earth & Ecosystem Sciences
* School of Engineering & Innovation
* School of Life, Health & Chemical Sciences
* School of Mathematics & Statistics
* School of Physical Sciences
* Knowledge Media Institute
* Deanery including teams supporting Curriculum; Research, Enterprise and Scholarship; Laboratory Infrastructure; and Faculty Administration

**“We aspire to be world leaders in inclusive, innovative and high impact STEM teaching and research, equipping learners, employers and society with the capabilities to meet tomorrow’s challenges”**

The Faculty of STEM consists of 2500 staff including 1,800 Associate Lecturers. The Faculty delivers over 185 modules across undergraduate and postgraduate curriculum, supporting nearly 19,000 students (full time equivalents) which is 29% of the OU total.

The Faculty generates more research income (circa £17M) than any other Faculty in the University, supported by a comprehensive laboratory infrastructure.

We are proud of our distinctive values and capabilities underpinning our aspiration:

*We are inclusive:*

* We transform people’s lives, ensuring STEM education is openly accessible to many thousands of students from diverse backgrounds – our students express high satisfaction with their study experience.
* We engage the public in exciting citizen science and engineering, including through free open educational resources, multi-platform broadcasting, outreach to inspire the next generation and with programmes to encourage more women into STEM.

*We are highly innovative:*

* We are at the forefront of innovative developments in teaching practical science and engineering at a distance, through simulated and remote access laboratories and practical experimentation.
* Our high quality teaching and curriculum are informed by world-leading research, strong links with professional bodies and communities of practitioners, as well as by scholarship focused on continuously improving our STEM pedagogy.

*We deliver significant social and economic impact:*

* We provide STEM higher education at a scale and reach unsurpassed in the UK, with a sizeable international reach and further growth potential.
* We inject transferable STEM skills and knowledge direct into the workplace for immediate employee and employer benefit, as students combine study while working.
* The employability value of our courses is underpinned by accreditation from leading STEM Professional Bodies and Learned Societies, as well as partnerships and sponsorship with leading employers.
* Our high quality, applied and academically relevant teaching and research addresses real-world issues, delivering impact for industry and society, including addressing pressing STEM skill-shortages across the UK.

If you would like to discuss this vacancy please email Daniel.johnson@open.ac.uk or Careers@open.ac.uk

**To apply for this role please submit your CV with a supporting statement, up to 1,000 words, setting out why you’re interested in this role and provide examples of where your skills and experience meet the job and person specification.**

*The Open University is committed to equality, diversity and inclusion which is reflected in our mission to be open to people, places, methods and ideas. We aim to foster a diverse and inclusive environment so that all in our OU community can reach their potential.  We recognise that different people bring different perspectives, ideas, knowledge, and culture, and that this difference brings great strength.  We strive to recruit, retain and develop the careers of a diverse pool of students and staff, and particularly encourage applications from all underrepresented groups. We also aspire to make The Open University a supportive workplace for all through our policies, services and staff networks.*

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