

School of Health and Society

Specialist Technician in Psychology- Grade 6

(Ref:MPF900)

Role Title: Specialist Technician – Psychology

Reports To: Technical Manager

Overview

The School of Health and Society is the largest school in the university with over 8,000 students. We seek to change lives through our ground-breaking work with the very best in the fields of health and society. Committed to breaking down barriers, we are a diverse community which is energised by our commitment to our students, who come to Salford from all over the world.

Combining innovative teaching with hands-on skills development, the school offers undergraduate, postgraduate and CPD programmes across a range of subject areas, including Counselling and Psychotherapy / Criminology / Midwifery / Nursing / Occupational Therapy / Physiotherapy / Podiatry / Policing / Prosthetics and Orthotics / Psychology / Public Health / Radiography / Social Work / Social Policy / Sociology / Sport and Exercise Science.

Our course content is developed in partnership with key stakeholders, and we deliver specialist education that draws on our own research through a rich interdisciplinary network. Our researchers have made positive changes at the regional, national, and international levels, and their work feeds directly back into our teaching, so that students benefit from relevant, evidence-based lectures.

The Directorate of Psychology and Sport is part of the School of Health and Society, where we combine innovative teaching with hands-on skill development to equip students with the knowledge and experience to advance their research or careers.

The Psychology laboratories within the Alerton Building include a range of facilities and equipment, including; dedicated testing rooms and observation spaces, a child development lab, functional near-infrared spectroscopy (fNIRS), electroencephalography (EEG), transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS), psychophysiological recording, and eye-tracking systems. These state-of-the-art facilities provide a wide range of specialist equipment and software utilised by students and staff from across the school and the wider University.

This role will provide technical and practical support for teaching and learning activities, demonstrating a range of techniques, skills, and methods across both traditional and digital technologies throughout the suite of laboratories and other practical spaces.

Role Detail

Role Purpose

To provide general and specialist technical support to staff and/or students as required, primarily across the psychology facilities, but also across the School of Health & Society if necessary. This will include preparing spaces for teaching and practice; maintaining stocks of materials and supplies in accordance with established procedures; and demonstrating equipment to students, staff and external stakeholders as required. The Psychology Technician will be responsible for the ongoing development of the suite of psychology laboratories.

Responsibilities

- To provide staff and students with the necessary technical support for the successful completion of their modules.
- To provide training and demonstration sessions where required, relating to the specialist psychology equipment/software.
- Liaising as necessary with external clients (e.g. collaborative research groups) and suppliers to solve technical issues and/or to provide an effective customer-driven service.
- Contribute to providing technical information for publications in peer-reviewed academic journals or disseminate research findings through other appropriate media.
- Maintaining an up-to-date knowledge of appropriate technologies and systems, e.g., E-Prime.
- Supporting and advising on the suitability of the technical-based system that will support staff and students for research and teaching.
- Being responsible for the effective delivery of laboratory services to internal and external users.
- Liaising with other sections of the University and external bodies as required on technical matters related to School activity.
- Supporting research projects/students by providing equipment and advising on the safe handling of equipment whilst promoting good laboratory practice.
- Providing technical support to students during data collection for their projects, where needed, including writing new code or providing support for existing code for experimental psychology research.
- Forecasting, ordering, and maintaining adequate stock levels of equipment, hardware, chemicals, and consumables within laboratories, ensuring they remain within agreed limits

and are managed in consultation with appropriate staff and in accordance with established procedures.

- Providing and managing an equipment and laboratory booking service.
- Providing daily checks, fault diagnosis, fault logging, calibration, and setting up specialist equipment and ensuring equipment is serviced at regular intervals and that the programme of maintenance is documented.
- Assisting with the coordination, installation and commissioning of new equipment for staff and student use.
- Being aware of risks and hazards associated with laboratory work, and bringing to the attention of senior staff any matters relating to the health and safety of staff, students and visitors.
- To engage with team and individual development opportunities, including PDRs and demonstrate a willingness to adapt, develop new skills, etc.
- Producing and updating risk assessments and COSHH documentation and coordinating safe systems of working.
- Liaising with appropriate H&S staff to ensure safe working practices are followed.
- Provide health and safety support as required, e.g. Fire Marshall.
- Perform any other duties appropriate to the grade as may be required by the Technical Manager/Head of School/Head of Division, etc.
- Engage with the University's commitment to deliver value for money services that optimise the use of resources by maintaining a cost-conscious approach when undertaking all duties and aspects of the role.
- Promote equality and diversity for students and staff and sustain an inclusive and supportive study and work environment in accordance with university policy.
- On occasion, work during the weekend to support university open days and applicant visit days.
- To engage in the Technician Commitment at the university <https://www.salford.ac.uk/technicians-commitment>.
- This role detail is a guide to the work you will initially be required to undertake. It may be changed from time to time to meet changing circumstances. It does not form part of your Contract of Employment.

Person Specification

Qualifications

	The successful candidate should have:	Essential / Desirable	Tested by* A, I, P, T
1	A first degree in Psychology, Electronics, Computer Science or a related discipline.	E	A
2	A postgraduate qualification in Psychology or a related discipline.	D	A

Background & Experience

	The successful candidate should be able to demonstrate:	Essential / Desirable	Tested by* A, I, P, T
3	Experience of working effectively within a team	E	AI
4	Experience managing psychology laboratories.	D	AI
5	Experience of supporting students in a psychology environment	E	AI
6	Previous experience of working in Psychology or a relevant scientific environment preferably in a higher education setting	E	A

Knowledge

	The successful candidate should have demonstrable knowledge of:	Essential / Desirable	Tested by* A, I, P, T
7	Health & Safety legislation and the effective implementation of risk assessments in general, and specifically, psychology-related testing	E	AI
8	The development, maintenance and troubleshooting of a range of technical equipment	E	AI
9	Use and programming of software used in Psychology (e.g., PsychoPy/Gorilla, Matlab, R).	E	AI
10	Knowledge of university systems and processes	D	AI

Skills & Competencies

	The successful candidate should demonstrate:	Essential / Desirable	Tested by* A, I, P, T
11	Ability to plan, organise and contribute to technical delivery in support of teaching and research in Psychology	E	AI
12	Ability to use and maintain specialist psychology equipment (such as EEG/ERP, Virtual Reality, motion capture, eye tracking, biopacs or audio-visual observation/ editing suites, experiment generators, online experiments)	E	AI
13	Ability to be flexible and to plan and organise a complex and varied workload	E	AI
14	Excellent problem-solving skills	E	AI
15	Ability to be proactive, self-motivated and take initiative	E	AI
16	Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, including conveying complex technical details to a varied audience	E	AI
17	An interest in cutting-edge and multimodal data collection techniques in psychological science	D	AI

A = Application form, I = Interview, P = Presentation, T = Test