LILONGWE UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES (LUANAR)

Knowledge | Innovation | Excellence

JOIN US & BE PART OF THE LUANAR WAY



Staff Vacancy Advertisement

VETERINARY LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

The Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) invites applications from suitably qualified candidates to be considered for the vacant position of Veterinary Laboratory Technician tenable in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University.

Job purpose

To provide accurate, timely, and reliable veterinary laboratory diagnostic services through the proper collection, processing, analysis, and reporting of animal health samples. The Veterinary Laboratory Technician is also responsible for supporting diagnostic investigations, maintaining laboratory quality and safety standards, operating and maintaining laboratory equipment, and ensuring compliance with established standard operating procedures, biosafety, and quality assurance requirements. The successful candidates will also be required to guide students during practical sessions.

Key Responsibilities

1. Sample Reception and Management

- Receive, identify, label, register, and process veterinary clinical samples.
- Verify sample quality, adequacy, and accompanying documentation.
- Ensure proper handling, storage, transportation, and disposal of samples.
- Maintain accurate sample tracking and laboratory records.

2. Laboratory Testing and Diagnostics

- Perform routine veterinary diagnostic tests in accordance with approved procedures.
- Conduct investigations in areas such as Haematology, Clinical chemistry, Microbiology, Parasitology and Serology
- Molecular diagnostics, including PCR, where applicable

- Prepare specimens, reagents, culture media, and other materials required for testing.
- Assist veterinarians and laboratory scientists with specialized diagnostic investigations.

3. Quality Assurance and Quality Control

- Follow established laboratory standard operating procedures (SOPs).
- Conduct and document appropriate quality-control checks.
- Identify, document, and report non-conformities or unusual results.
- Participate in proficiency testing, internal quality assessments, audits, and continuous improvement activities.
- Ensure laboratory results are accurate, reliable, and reported within the required turnaround time.

4. Equipment and Laboratory Maintenance

- Operate laboratory equipment safely and correctly.
- Perform routine cleaning, maintenance, calibration, and basic troubleshooting of equipment.
- Report equipment faults and maintenance requirements promptly.
- Ensure work areas, instruments, and laboratory facilities are maintained in good working condition.

5. Biosafety and Biosecurity

- Comply with laboratory biosafety, biosecurity, infection-control, and occupational health and safety requirements.
- Correctly handle potentially infectious, hazardous, or biological materials.
- Use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Ensure proper decontamination and disposal of laboratory waste.

6. Documentation and Reporting

- Record test procedures, observations, results, and quality-control information accurately.
- Prepare routine laboratory reports and statistical summaries as required.
- Maintain confidentiality and security of laboratory information.
- Communicate abnormal, critical, or unexpected findings promptly to the relevant supervisor or veterinarian.

7. Laboratory Supplies and Inventory

- Monitor stocks of reagents, consumables, PPE, and other laboratory supplies.
- Maintain appropriate inventory records.
- Assist with preparation of requisitions and procurement of laboratory materials.
- Monitor expiry dates and ensure proper storage of reagents and consumables.

8. Teamwork and Professional Development

- Work collaboratively with veterinarians, laboratory scientists, animal-health personnel, and other stakeholders.
- Provide technical support to colleagues where appropriate.
- Participate in training, professional development, and competency assessments.
- Keep up to date with relevant veterinary laboratory methods, technologies, and quality standards.

9. Other Duties

- Perform other laboratory and diagnostic duties reasonably assigned by the Laboratory Manager or designated supervisor.
- Contribute to the overall efficiency, quality, and effectiveness of veterinary diagnostic services.

Qualifications, Experience, Skills, and Attributes

- A Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Veterinary Medicine with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 obtained from accredited institutions of higher learning.
- Candidates with a Diploma in Veterinary Medicine in addition to the BSc will have an added advantage.
- A minimum of three (3) years' experience preferably in an institution of higher learning.
- Hands-on experience in implementing and interpreting HR policies and procedures.
- Experience in developing and managing performance management processes, practices and systems.
- Experience with staff relations and dealing with staff issues including grievances
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills to effectively connect with individuals from diverse backgrounds.
- Good communication, planning, and organization skills
- Strong presentation and facilitation skills; skilled at communicating clearly and confidently and articulating
- Ability to manage complex organizational issues with excellent problem-identification and solving skills
- Excellent knowledge of relevant labor laws.

Terms and Conditions of Engagement

All the successful candidates will be engaged on an initial 2-year contract before they can be considered for permanent appointment based on satisfactory performance.

Remuneration will be in line with LUANAR Staff Regulations and Conditions of Service applicable to staff on fixed-term contract.

Mode of Application

Hard copy application package should include an up-to-date Curriculum Vitae (CV), names and contact details of three traceable referees one of which should be of a current employer where applicable plus copies of **certified** academic and professional qualifications. The title of the position **must** be indicated on the envelope and sent to:

The University Registrar
Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources(LUANAR)
P.O. Box 219
LILONGWE

All applications should reach the UNIVERSITY no later than **Friday, 23rd October 2026**. Only shortlisted candidates will be acknowledged.

LUANAR is an equal opportunity employer hence females are encouraged to apply.