**About Elsoms Seeds Ltd.**

Elsoms is the UK’s leading independent seed specialist and plant breeder. We breed, supply, and treat high quality vegetable and agricultural seed throughout the UK, using the latest in plant breeding research and seed technology. Established in 1844, Elsoms has remained an independent family-owned business throughout its history, now with around 100 employees.

The Elsoms R&D department invest in our own plant breeding programmes. Our goal is to produce new and improved varieties of arable and vegetable crops, playing our part in the global challenge for sustainable food production and food security.

**What will you be doing?**

We are looking for a Glasshouse Assistant/Technician to join our Breeding Team within the R&D department. Your role will be to take responsibility for glasshouse operations, including plant husbandry, bud pollination, crossing and bagging of plants, and other day-to-day activities contributing to the smooth running and success of Elsoms’ R&D breeding activities. Seasonal work also includes the harvesting, cleaning and packeting of seed. This role provides an opportunity to work with a variety of agricultural and horticultural crops and develop a range of skills.

Typical work in this role will include:

* Plant husbandry, including pest and disease identification and control, spraying, fertilising and watering to deliver high quality plant and seed.
* Bagging of plants to produce seed for breeding, both in the glasshouse and field.
* Harvesting, cleaning, and processing of seed.
* Checking and maintaining health and cleanliness of plants, glasshouses and polytunnels.

Please see the job description for further information on the role.

**What we are looking for**

We are looking for someone with a passion for horticulture/agriculture. You must have a positive attitude, a willingness to get your hands dirty, and be a physically fit individual.

This job will suit you if you have excellent practical and manual skills where efficiency, precision and attention to detail are essential, and you are comfortable with working in glasshouse and outdoor environments.

The role is available to all levels, from entry to experienced, as full training will be provided. However, previous horticultural experience and working with plants is desired.

GCSEs are a minimum requirement, and the candidate will ideally have horticultural/agricultural experience. PA1 and PA6 qualifications are preferred, but full training will be given.

Skills:

* An ability to handle routine tasks and procedures.
* Good knowledge of plant husbandry.
* Excellent communication skills, both verbal and written.
* Excellent attention to detail.
* Accurate record keeping.
* Good literacy and numeracy skills.
* Good planning and organisation skills.
* Good level of computer literacy, including familiarity with Microsoft Office applications.
* Equally capable of working alone or as part of a team.
* An ability to work in an office environment, in the glasshouse and out in the field.
* An ability to take a lead role in designated areas of responsibility.
* An ability to work independently, without instruction, to ensure the task is completed to a consistently high standard.

**Additional information**

Job location: Spalding, UK. There will be the occasional work away from site.

Working pattern: Full time position (37.5 hrs per week), Monday to Friday, permanent (subject to a probation period). There will be an expectation to work additional hours during peak harvest time.

Leave: 25 days annual leave plus bank holidays, increasing to 30 days with long service award

Benefits:

* Annual staff bonus (subject to company performance)
* Elsoms Seeds Ltd. share incentive plan
* Group income protection
* Life assurance
* Company pension scheme with employee contributions up to 5% double matched
* Electric vehicle scheme
* Employee assistance programme
* Annual medical checks
* Staff social events
* Employee wellbeing initiatives including cycle to work scheme, free fresh fruit, hot and cold drinks, free yoga classes, a staff forum.

**Application instructions**

If you meet the above criteria, we would be happy to hear from you. Please visit <https://elsoms.com/careers/> for information or send a CV and covering letter explaining your motivation for applying to the role to HR@elsoms.com. Informal enquiries can be made to richard.tudor@elsoms.com

Due to visa requirements, we can only accept applications from individuals with long-term eligibility to work in the UK already granted.

Elsoms actively supports equality, diversity and inclusion and encourages applications from all sections of society.