

## Biogeochemistry Research Technician

- Location: SAMS site, Dunbeg, near Oban
- Hours of work: 37 per week

Salary range: Grade 5 £32,546- £36,130pa

Contract type: Fixed Term 24 months

## Company

The Scottish Association for Marine Science is an equal opportunity employer; we welcome applications from people with disabilities. We value the diversity of the people we hire and serve.

Diversity at SAMS means fostering a workplace in which individual differences are recognised, appreciated and respected, as well as responded to in ways that fully develop and utilise each person's talents and strengths.

## Job Description

- Your main responsibilities will be:
- **Job Purpose**
- Support the discovery and creation of new knowledge by applying analytical techniques to provide high quality analysis of seawater nutrients for a range of research and commercial projects.

- Management of main analytical laboratory area, upkeep, performance, safety and management of analytical instrumentation.
- In addition, support the biogeochemical analysis and sample preparation of a range of inorganic and organic techniques, such as ICPMS/MS, LC, IC and GC.
- Provide training and data outputs to SAMS staff and students, together with a synthesis of analytical integrity including ISO quality system compliance.
- Support SAMS education activities including demonstrating and providing practical classes to undergraduate students.

<i>Responsibility Areas</i>	<i>Approx. % of time</i>
<p>Apply specialised technical knowledge and experience of automated spectroscopy methods (e.g. continuous flow and flow injection) to operate analytical instrumentation and develop methods to meet deliverables for both research and commercials projects.</p> <p>Provide data ensuring QA/QC specific to ISO accreditation systems and global research</p>	70

<p>community guidelines delivering data within timescales agreed with funding bodies or commercial department.</p> <p>Maintain instruments in own area of work, resolve instrument breakdowns, monitor/purchase of parts/consumables.</p>	
<p>Lab Management duties - responsible for H&amp;S, inductions, training on analytical equipment and support whilst utilising the facility.</p>	20
<p>Support SAMS Education activities by providing practical sessions, direct training and supervision to SAMS UG/PG community and when required practical sessions to groups</p>	5
<p>Willingness and ability to go to sea on research expeditions and coastal field work</p>	5
<p>Be pro-active in the application of SAMS Health and Safety Procedures</p>	Ongoing

#### 4. Planning and Organising

- Ensuring instruments are available and functional for multiple project requirements.

- Prioritise, manage and carry out experimental work for multiple concurrent projects in a busy laboratory environment.
- Effective time management to manage a dynamic workload, requiring planning and prioritization to ensure successful and safe delivery of research, commercial and teaching responsibilities on time, and to cost and quality constraints.

## **5. Problem-Solving**

- As a technical specialist, troubleshoot operational problems with analytical techniques, data and instruments and resolution of these using scientific knowledge and experience.
- Identify and resolve problems with method development.

## **6. Decision-Making**

- Correct management of instrument, including its use, maintenance, method development and purchase of supplies.
- Decisions regarding instrument repair.
- Decisions regarding organisation of student practical work in collaboration with the education delivery team.

## **7. Key Contacts/Relationships**

- Active engagement with PIs and postdocs on issues relating to analytical techniques and planning correctly to ensure continued provision for delivery of targets.
- Advise/train staff or students in appropriate use of instrumentation and best practice for analytical techniques.
- External and internal engineers and technical support if instrumentation requires troubleshooting and repair.
- Professional interactions with external commercial organisations to advise on sampling and analyses.
- Teaching and supervisory responsibilities for undergraduate students, in lab, on vessels and with regards to report, presentation and delivery of dissertations.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

## **8. Knowledge, Skills and Experience needed for the Job**

- Experience and specialist technical expertise with laboratory instrumentation, and analytical techniques (with appropriate QA/QC) specific to the role is essential.

- Degree or post-graduate qualification in marine, environmental or chemical science, or equivalent professional experience.
- Analytical experience in an environmental and preferably an aquatic science discipline is essential. Experience of SFA or FIA nutrient analysis, together with CN and/or automated titration analyses is highly desirable.
- Experience and knowledge of other chemical analyses such as ICPMS, HPLC, GC, particle size laser diffraction, as well as environmental sample preparation such as digestion and leaching techniques are desirable.
- Some laboratory management, experience of supervising/training students and demonstrating analytical techniques is desirable.
- Capable of method development.
- Experience of working under an accredited Quality Management System in a commercial environment is desirable.
- Ability to process and assess data for quality control prior to delivery of results and final reports. Must be familiar with spreadsheet and report generation software such as Microsoft Excel and Word and comfortable with their use to provide statistically analysed data for both research and commercial deliverables.

## **9. Dimensions – Scope of role**

- Responsible for the maintenance and management of nutrient analysis carrying out equipment maintenance, servicing and problem solving.
- Delivery of QC and QA data and reports including ISO system management compliance and global research community guidelines.
- Ensuring effective financial management of instruments whilst making the deliverables required.
- Responsible for operation and maintenance of various other analytical instruments, areas and preparing field equipment and consumables for fieldwork.
- Participation in field work and research cruises.
- Provide laboratory, technical and instrument support to a number of academic staff and students.
- Provide teaching and supervisory support to undergraduate and master's student courses.
- Provide instructions and advice to colleagues and/or customers.
- Support the evolution of analytical capability with an understanding of emerging technologies.
- Ability for independent technical working.

## **10. Any other relevant information**

- The post holder may be required to perform duties other than those given in the job description for the post. The particular duties and responsibilities attached to posts may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the duties or the level of responsibilities entailed. If the normal duties of the post include going to sea (apart from small boats e.g. RHIB's) the applicant must be able to obtain the ENG1 medical certification and complete the STCW 95 Personal Survival Techniques training.

## **Our Ideal Candidate**

Candidates may hold an MSc and/or PhD in an appropriate discipline and be able to demonstrate a working knowledge of research methods and techniques.

This hands-on role requires a minimum of 3 years of analytical experience in an environmental and preferably an aquatic science discipline with a proven ability to operate, maintain, troubleshoot and fix environmental analytical laboratory equipment independently, as well as an ability to critique and improve analytical and research

methods. Experience of data processing is essential. Knowledge of segmented or continuous flow analysis and other analytical chemistry platforms such as CN elemental analysis, ICPMS, HPLC, IC, GC and FTIR is highly desirable. Experience of working with students and laboratory management is welcomed.

## How to Apply

Applications may be submitted by e-mail, handed in to our reception team or by postal mail no later than 18<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Interviews will be held shortly thereafter.

(Job Ref No: D04/26.CA)

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[\(Vacancies — Scottish Association for Marine Science, Oban UK\)](#)

Attention: (SAMS HR team)