

Job Description

1. Job Details

Job Title:	Biogeochemistry Research Technician	Job Family	Technical and Experimental
Line Manager:	Senior Support Scientist/Research Assistant in Analytical Chemistry	Grade and salary range	5 £32,546.00 - £36,130.00 per annum
Full Time/Part Time (no. of hrs for part time)	Full Time – 37 hrs per week Mon-Fri	Duration of appointment	24 months

2. 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.

3. Main Responsibilities

<i>Responsibility Areas</i>	<i>Approx. % of time</i>
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 commercial projects. Provide data ensuring QA/QC specific to ISO accreditation systems and global research community guidelines delivering data within timescales agreed with funding bodies or commercial department. Maintain instruments in own area of work, resolve instrument breakdowns, monitor/purchase of parts/consumables.	70
Lab Management duties - responsible for H&S, inductions, training on analytical equipment and support whilst utilising the facility.	20

Support SAMS Education activities by providing practical sessions, direct training and supervision to SAMS UG/PG community and when required practical sessions to groups	5
Willingness and ability to go to sea on research expeditions and coastal field work	5
Be pro-active in the application of SAMS Health and Safety Procedures	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.

What can SAMS offer you?

We strive to be a world-class marine science enterprise that underpins regional, national, and international policy, and societal action to secure healthy and sustainable oceans. As a workforce, we have a strong family and team culture, helping each other to achieve our goals.

Remuneration

We offer a competitive salary and pension as well as employee benefits package. We also have a number of supportive policies to assist absence, family, and other leave types.

Career Goals

SAMS provides a supportive learning and career growth environment for those looking for that next step in their career or upskill in the workplace. This may be through opportunities to develop techniques, learn more about the science objectives for the group, gain some tutorial opportunities, as well as attend meetings and CPD events.

We'll provide you with a good start as you join SAMS

SAMS provides an excellent induction which is a great introduction to the organisation, the facilities, your department and team, and provides that support that you need over the early months joining a new organisation. We will also provide you with office space, computing equipment and ensure this is ready for you on your first day of work.

Employee Benefits

In addition to a general remuneration package which includes a generous salary, pension, and sickness absence policy, we offer a number of employee benefits to our staff, some of which are listed below:

- Flexible & Hybrid working arrangements (up to 2 days working from home) – will depend on role dynamic.
- Purchase of additional annual leave – up to 20 days per annum
- Access to shopping discounts as well as local shop and leisure discounted memberships
- Cycle to work scheme
- Purchase of technology
- Payroll Giving
- Salary Sacrifice – pensions
- Access to wellbeing portals which provide support for mental health, nutrition and fitness and GP referral scheme
- Occupational health support
- Welfare support on site
- Sabbatical scheme
- A number of training and development courses to assist you with your career development – leadership, coaching and mentoring.
- Free car parking

- [Electric car charge points on-site](#)

Applications must include CV and Cover Letter and should be sent electronically to recruitment@sams.ac.uk quoting Job Ref. 'D04/26.CA' in the subject line.

The closing date for applications is 18TH June 2026

Please note, we prefer to contact referees prior to interview.

Your application – what are we looking for?

We are looking for a full CV – please remember to document all your relevant work experience, listed with the most recent first. You should also include your educational achievements with your most recent qualification first. You should include skills and competencies gained from previous employment or education. This should be specific to the job description. Also, please include details of two referees, one referee at least from your current role, who we may contact if invited for interview.

We enjoy reading cover letters and these are an important part of the application. In the letter, connect your past accomplishments with the requirements listed in the job description. Focus on your most relevant experience, qualifications, and skills. Where possible, quantify your accomplishments with facts and data.

Useful links

- [How to write a flawless cover letter](#) (please right click and select open in new tab)
- [How to write a CV](#) (please right click and select open in new tab)