**Marine Biotechnology Technician**

**Location:** SAMS, Oban

**Contract Type:** Fixed-Term – 2 years

**Working Pattern:** Full Time– 37 hours per week

**Salary Range:** £24,174 (G4) - £28,756 (G5) per annum

*(starting salary and grade will depend on the experience and added value you can bring to the project outputs)*

**Job Purpose**

Seaweed and other marine biomass offers the opportunity for the development of bio-energy and could form the basis of a new bio-based economy. However, we need to better understand how to convert the biomass to energy or other useful products at a commercial scale. You will work within an industry funded project to provide analytical support to a team of researchers working to develop seaweed based bio-energy or other products of interest.

**The Role**

You will be expected to apply analytical techniques to provide high quality analysis of macroalgae and their conversion products, including DNA extraction, lipid and carbohydrate analysis and elemental analysis using a range of chromatography techniques. Provide data outputs to SAMS research community, together with a synthesis of the analytical integrity of its quality. Management of main laboratory area, upkeep, performance and management of instrumentation associated with activities.

**Our Ideal Candidate**

The successful candidate will have a degree in environmental, chemical or geological science as well as proven experience with instrumentation and techniques related to analytical chemistry.

**Interested?**

We would love to hear from you. If you have queries on the job and would like to talk these through before applying, please email these through, in the first instance, to Adam Hughes ([adam.hughes@sams.ac.uk](mailto:adam.hughes@sams.ac.uk))

For more information, please visit [www.sams.ac.uk/vacancies](http://www.sams.ac.uk/vacancies)

Applications must include CV and Cover Letter and should be sent electronically to [recruitment@sams.ac.uk](mailto:recruitment@sams.ac.uk) quoting Job Ref ‘D15/22.AH’ in the subject heading.

Closing date for applications is **12th September 2022** – Interviews will be held by mid/late September.

**Link to full advertising document as below**

**Job Description**

**1. Job Details**

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| Job Title | Marine Biotechnology Technician | Job Family | Technical and Experimental Family |
| Line Manager | Support Scientist in Microbiology and Microscopy | Grade range | 4-5 |
| Full Time/Part Time | Full Time (37hrs p/w) | Duration of appointment | 2 years |

**2. Job Purpose**

* Supporting SAMS research and enterprise projects by applying analytical techniques to provide high quality analysis of macroalgae and their conversion products, including DNA extraction, lipid and carbohydrate analysis and elemental analysis using a range of chromatography techniques.
* Provide data outputs to SAMS research community, together with a synthesis of the analytical integrity of its quality.
* Management of main laboratory area, upkeep, performance and management of instrumentation associated with activities.

**3. Main Responsibilities**

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Planning and Organising**   * Ensuring instruments are available and functional for projects requirements. * Effective time management to manage a dynamic workload, requiring planning and prioritisation to ensure successful and safe delivery of research and commercial responsibilities on time, to cost and quality constraints. * Accurate recording, handling and management of data resulting from analytical studies. * Managing multiple work streams to prioritise activity to ensure delivery of critical project outputs. * At a higher grade this will involve planning the work program over times scales of months in consultation with other team members, other lab users and external project stakeholders, and will identify resource requirements and will plan to mitigate ‘pinch points’.   **5. Problem-Solving**   * Troubleshooting of operational problems with analytical techniques and instruments and resolution of these through corrective maintenance and scientific knowledge. * Ensuring corrective actions and problems are properly managed and carried out with regards to the Quality Management System. * Undertaking method development to refine laboratory techniques to improve efficiency and reliability of desired analytical processes, looking to resolve problems and document changes to protocols in a traceable manner. At a senior level this will include novel method development to a peer reviewable standard. * At the higher grade the post holder will contribute to the innovation and commercialisation of the research understanding, demonstrating and contributing to the industrial application of the science   **6. Decision-Making**   * Correct management of instrument, including its use, maintenance, method development and purchase of supplies. * Decisions regarding instrument repair (i.e. when to call in service engineer). * Decisions regarding organisation of student practical work. * At the higher level the post holder will in collaboration with the research team influence the direction of future science and funding applications.   **7. Key Contacts/Relationships**   * Active engagement with PIs and postdocs on issues relating to project objectives, analytical techniques and planning 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. * At a senior level be comfortable liaising and advising external stakeholders on technical and methodological aspects.   **8. Knowledge, Skills and Experience needed for the Job (usually captured in Person Specification)**   * Degree in an environmental, chemical or geological science, and familiarity with instrumentation and analytical techniques specific to the role, with a relevant formal qualification and laboratory experience. * Analytical experience in an environmental and preferably an aquatic science discipline is essential. * Experience of genomic techniques, HPLC or GC, lipid or carbohydrate analysis is highly desirable. * Experience and knowledge of other data analysis or bioinformatics is desirable. * Some laboratory management, experience of supervising/training students and demonstrating analytical techniques 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 analyses to support the project and consumable budgets on a yearly basis, ensuring effective financial management of instruments whilst making the deliverables required. * Provide technical and instrument support to academic staff. * Assist SAMS Quality Manager in maintaining and developing the Quality Management System, with specific reference to method development and validation, and producing Standards Operating Procedures for processes (where required).   **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.  For applicants wishing to be considered for the post at Grade 5, SAMS will expect to see some of the following evidence in your applications:   * Will already have developed specialist techniques and already be applying these to their current work area/previous job – e.g able to provide quality regular results, able to analyse these results, produce into datasets which may be more developed, write reports where required and contribute their data to future science publications, where opportunities arise. May already have a track record of contributions to publications. * Some contribution to innovative thinking, new ideas to support some of your research/commercial activities. * Have experience of supervisory responsibilities – e.g. you may be responsible for supervising/organising the work of others in a specialist area or across a number of project areas in relation to your job on a regular basis. * You may be a go to person for others to assist with training and problem solving, being experienced in specific analytical techniques. * Some evidence of developing processes and procedures or at least contribution to the improvement of these to benefit a work area – providing examples. * Hold certain specialist skills where they have proven experience of where these provide added value and contribute to SAMS commercial and research streams. * Some contribution to education activities – e.g. outreach, tutorials, assisting students with project activities etc.   [WHAT SAMS CAN OFFER YOU (please right click and select open in new tab)](https://sway.office.com/7GSAUexj0DJC3tZz?ref=Link)    Our Values and culture  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 generous 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.  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.  We are also open to discuss further small set up requirements that you might need.  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 (2 days working from home, 3 days on-site) * 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 * Access to free CBT sessions * Sabbatical scheme * A number of training and development courses to assist you with your career development – leadership, coaching and mentoring.     SAMS is part of the University of the Highlands & Islands and holds an Athena SWAN Bronze award.  SAMS is currently working towards a silver award.  As an Academic Partner of UHI, SAMS is designated as an educational establishment and subject to the provisions of the Protection of Children (Scotland) Act.  Certain roles may be subject to a satisfactory check by Disclosure (Scotland) as a condition of their appointment.    Applications must include CV and Cover Letter and should be sent electronically to [recruitment@sams.ac.uk](mailto:recruitment@sams.ac.uk) quoting Job Ref. ‘D15/22.AH’ in the subject line.    The closing date for applications is 12th September 2022  **Interviews will be held by mid/late September**    *Please note, we prefer to contact referees prior to interview*    Guidance for Applicants  ***Applying from overseas***  Applications from outside the UK are welcomed; however, **this role will not be available for sponsorship**.  Candidates must therefore have the rights to work in the UK.  There are also a number of independent visas candidates may be eligible to apply for.  All the details can be found here [Work in the UK - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/work-visas)  There are costs associated with working in the UK such as visas, health surcharges which you may wish to check out if you become a shortlisted candidate.    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 you 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 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](https://career-advice.jobs.ac.uk/cv-and-cover-letter-advice/how-to-write-a-flawless-cover-letter-in-2020/) (please right click and select open in new tab) * [How to write a CV](https://www.reed.co.uk/career-advice/how-to-write-a-cv/) (please right click and select open in new tab) |  |