**Aquarium Project Technician**

**Job Description**

1. **Job Details**

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| Job Title: | Aquarium Project Technician | Job Family: | Technical & Experimental |
| Line Manager: | Aquarium Manager | Grade: | 3 |
| Full Time/Part Time: | Full Time – 37hrs per week | Duration of Appointment: | 2 years |

1. **Job Purpose**
* Provide cross disciplinary technical support in set up, day to day running, monitoring and data collection of aquarium-based experiments.
* Liaise with researchers and aquarium manager regarding future projects and ongoing experiments.
* Assist Aquarium Manager in monitoring, maintaining, and making alterations of aquarium infrastructure.
1. **Main Responsibilities**

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| *Responsibility Areas* | *Approx. %**of time* |
| Provide specialist technical support for aquarium-based research projects with minimal supervision. Responsible for practical aspects of delivering key aquarium projects including construction and maintenance of experimental systems in collaboration with aquarium manager and project lead. Independent identification and resolution of routine system issues. Development of knowledge and skills associated with aquarium-based research. | 35 |
| Sampling, monitoring, and recording accurate experimental information in a planned manner, both to manage the experimental system and as data collection for required reports and publication.  | 35 |
| Provide aquarium related support. Routine monitoring of inflow water and air, infrastructure maintenance. Routine infrastructure construction and problem-solving tasks. Project dependent input towards legislative requirements (FHI, HO). Involvement in continuous discussion regarding development of aquarium facility and services. | 20 |
| Experimental stock husbandry and knowledge development as needed to maintain good levels of welfare/hygiene. | 10 |
| Be pro-active in the application of SAMS Health and Safety Procedures. | Ongoing |

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**4. Planning and Organising**

* The multi-objective nature of the role requires post holder to work with flexibility and adequately implement planning of resource allocation to allow successful project and routine task delivery.
* Organisation of project resources and a methodical planned system of monitoring, sampling, data recording and record keeping is essential.
* Identify required equipment and identify future shortages of equipment/consumables.
* Plan workload for the following week.

**5. Problem-Solving**

* The post holder must be pragmatic with sufficient knowledge of experimental systems to predict issues that may arise.
* Diligent monitoring of systems will contribute to ability to identify trends or areas of concern and correct any problems in a timely manner, minimizing impacts on experimental outcomes.
* Must be able to work both independently and collaboratively: with minimal supervision regarding routine activities and minor complications; with others to overcome larger problems and constraints on experimental design particularly in the planning stages.
* Committed to developing skills and technical knowledge in their field.
* Able to identify and communicate ways of improving experimental and aquarium processes.

**6. Decision-Making**

* Proactively identifying experimental issues and addressing.
* Understanding when liaising with others is required and when a solution can be found and implemented autonomously.
* Decision making around use of time and resources for best outcomes.
* Input into purchasing decisions for project and aquarium.

**7. Key Contacts/Relationships**

* Line manager and technical group manager – regular discussions about workload and upcoming projects.
* Other technical and facilities staff – when required from project work, or for dealing with maintenance issues.
* Other science staff for routine discussions concerning upcoming or ongoing experimental work.
* Enterprise staff or students if required.

**8. Knowledge, Skills and Experience we are looking for**

* Capacity to rapidly become proficient in running experimental equipment.
* Experience of practical, problem-solving focused roles.
* Effective communicator with well-developed written and verbal skills.
* Good planning skills and ability to plan own work schedule for the day/week with a level of flexibility if required.
* Educated to degree level or with relevant practical experience.
* Full driving license.

The following skills are advantageous, but it is understood that these are relatively specialist and may need to be developed within the role:

* Knowledge/experience of aquarium based aquatic systems.
* Knowledge/experience of flow through and related aquarium infrastructure.
* Knowledge and experience of constructing aquatic experimental setups.
* Knowledge of requirements for maintaining a range of species.
* Experience of carrying out sampling processes and carrying out basic water quality analysis with understanding of results and implications.
* Experience of monitoring aquarium-based systems.
* Understanding of risk management within the aquarium environment.
* Experience of routine husbandry.

**9. Dimensions – Scope of role**

* Practical, largely unsupervised, implementation of routine aspects of aquarium-based projects.
* The number of projects may vary dependent on scale but typically between 2 - 6 concurrent experiments.
* Provide technical support for primary researcher and other individuals involved in the projects.
* Maintaining accurate records of experimental information and basic interpretation of data and test results.
* Assist aquarium manager with monitoring, maintenance and improvement of aquarium infrastructure.
* Liaise/update aquarium manager and project researcher regarding any developments/concerns.

**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?](https://vimeo.com/411370772)

*Please right click and select ‘open in new tab’*

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 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)
* 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 CBT sessions
* 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

SAMS’ commitment to gender equality has been recognised, as our institute was presented with an Athena SWAN (Scientific Women’s Academic Network) Bronze Award and is currently working towards Investors in Diversity accreditation.

SAMS have received a Youth Friendly Employer Badge 2023 – Bronze Award.

SAMS have received a Bronze Award through the Armed Forces Covenant Employer Recognition Scheme. We recognise the contribution that Service personnel, reservists, veterans, the cadet movement, and military families make to our organisation, our community and to the country. We will seek to uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant through Education, training, and employment of veterans and Service spouses.

As an Academic Partner of the University of the Highlands & Islands (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 quoting Job Ref. ‘D05/24.AM’ in the subject line.

The closing date for applications is 25th June 2024.

Interviews to be held in July 2024.

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

Guidance for Applicants

We are unfortunately not able to provide visa sponsorship for this position.

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](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)



