**Science Laboratory Assistant - GCAS Internship**

*Supporting our Phytoplankton Monitoring project*

GCAS reference number ‘**GCAS534’**

**How to apply:**

You must be a member of the GCAS Talent Pool before you can apply for internships: <https://gcas.co.uk/graduates/what-we-offer>

Please ensure that you have read the details below thoroughly before submitting your application.

For support and advice on tailoring your application, please visit the GCAS website: <https://gcas.co.uk/graduates/on-programme>

If you have any questions about the application process, please email [GCAS@ed.ac.uk](mailto:GCAS@ed.ac.uk)

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| **GCAS Internship overview** |
| **Organisation name:** Scottish Association for Marine Science  **Location:** On Site – Oban, Argyll, Scotland, PA37 1QA  **Salary:** £18,018.00 per annum working 35 hours per week  **Planned start date:** Ideally, some time in **February 2023**  **Planned end date:** 9 months from start date. (6 months will be funded by GCAS scheme and 3 months funded by science project)  **Proposed working hours and pattern:** You will work 7 hours per day over 5 days Monday to Friday. Start and end times can be agreed post interview but ideally 0900-1300 and 1400-1700 hrs each day. Lunch break 1300-1400 hrs  **Closing date:** 5pm on 31st January 2023  **Application process:** Email your CV and covering letter (as one document) to [GCAS@ed.ac.uk](mailto:GCAS@ed.ac.uk) by 5pm on the closing date, quoting the GCAS reference number **‘GCAS534’**  Please apply as soon as possible in advance of the closing date, as late applications will not be accepted. |
| **Benefits of undertaking this internship** |
| You will develop your laboratory skills working on a scientific research/commercial contract. This helps to build knowledge, learn and apply scientific experimental techniques, support a scientific research/commercial project and also learn from experienced support scientists who will also support your success.  SAMS is a great learning base and has researchers, teachers and commercial staff on site to learn from, we will support you to create a CPD record whilst with us, we are very inclusive, friendly and our teams provide a great support structure for those learning with us to help building confidence, knowledge, application and experience to add to your CV. |
| **Description of organisation and internship purpose** |
| The Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) is Scotland’s largest and oldest **independent** marine science organisation, delivering marine science for a productive and sustainably managed marine environment through **innovative** research, education and engagement with society.  We are a non-profit organisation and charity.  The internship provides an insight into our scientific research, contributing to one of our research/commercial projects, we will help you to build laboratory skills for commercial purposes – learning techniques, health and safety protocols, understand and follow standard set operating procedures. You will also gain familiarity with scientific equipment which you will operate.  We offer a very stimulating environment. Working alongside other research scientists and technicians, contributing to our scientific success. SAMS family culture offers a very supportive and relaxing work experience. It’s also fun! |
| **Main responsibilities** |
| Laboratory duties will include the receipt, processing, storage and disposal of seawater samples and preparation of sampling kit and fixative.  **Planning and Organising**   * Plan and prioritize workload for receipt and processing of samples on a daily basis * Preparation of equipment for processing samples * Preparation of sampling kits and fixative for supplying to sampling officers   **Problem-Solving**  **•** Communicate and liaise with fellow workers and technical services within the department  • Communicate with external contacts, particularly in relation to erroneous sample collection information  • React and deal with any problems arising from equipment failure  **Decision-Making**  Ability to prioritize workload to make best use of the facilities available, ensuring samples can be analysed within the contractual time frame. |
| **Person specification** |
| **Knowledge, Skills and Experience needed for the Job**   * Science Degree * Some laboratory experience would be helpful * Ability to follow instruction * Excellent team working * Good oral and written communication * Good personal time management and ability to work to tight deadlines * Attention to detail, preparation of accurate and timely documentation * Computer literate and willing to learn and use new software – familiar with Microsoft Office Software package * Ability to attend on a regular basis and cope with the demands of the job.   **Dimensions – Scope of role**   * Generally working on one main project, with occasional additional commercial contributions * Dealing with large number of seawater samples * Working within a set time frame on a daily basis * Ensuring that all quality control practices conforming to UKAS ISO17025 are adhered to * Health & Safety – awareness of, and adherence to, the contents of all risk assessments and SSWs (safety systems at work). |
| **Any other information about the role** |
| A number of employees come to SAMS and Oban because they want to not only learn but also enjoy a relaxing and healthy lifestyle.  We have a number of staff here who enjoy the outdoors and participate in running, hillwalking, swimming, kayaking clubs. Oban area is a great place to participate in outdoor activities or why not join a local club and learn Gaelic, Scottish music and dancing clubs or spend time exploring the nearby islands, some of which are easily accessible directly from Oban. |