

Toxic Algae Project Monitoring Officer

- Location: SAMS site, Dunbeg, near Oban
 - Hours of work: 37 hours per week
 - Salary range: £26,444 - £29,605 per annum
- Contract type: Open-ended

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:

- The role will support the operational delivery of a SAMS Enterprise contract, for the monitoring of biotoxin producing phytoplankton in Scottish Waters.
- Activities will include processing and analysis of seawater samples, consumable stock management and supply of sampling kits to external contractors, and dissemination of results.

- Work closely with the Programme Manager, carrying out duties to support the running of the programme as well as deputise when the Manager is engaged with other activities.
- The toxic algae monitoring programme is seasonal, with sample processing mainly occurring during the months of March to October, with leave planned around this period. The quieter periods involve more administrative tasks, in addition to supporting other areas of SAMS' work as required.
- These tasks may include a contribution to training, cryopreservation, analytical work; coastal/seagoing fieldwork; and contributing to HAB/phytoplankton research. The exact time spent on projects will vary, depending on SAMS' requirement.

Requirements and Qualifications

- Master's degree, or bachelor's degree/HND level with laboratory experience in a relevant biological discipline.
- It is desirable to have good taxonomic knowledge of phytoplankton, sufficient to train other staff in harmful phytoplankton identification, and capability to undertake full community analysis of seawater samples for research and commercial contracts.

- Knowledge of equipment such as inverted and fluorescent microscopes and scanning electron microscope desirable, with ability to instruct others.
- Able to successfully follow strict protocols and apply to the Enterprise contract.
- Able to build good working relationships as well as able to work independently and make decisions within own area of work.
- Good oral and written communication.
- Good personal time management.
- Ability to work accurately to tight deadlines and attention to detail.
- Computer literacy.
- Preparation of accurate and timely documentation, records, reports and data sets, for contracts and projects.
- Ability and temperament to conduct sustained periods of routine work at the microscope.
- Ability to attend on a regular basis and cope with the demands of the job.

How to Apply

Applications may be submitted by e-mail, handed in to our reception team or by postal mail no later than 15th February 2026.

Interviews will be held shortly after the closing date.

(Job Ref No: D23/25.KM)

(Scottish Association for Marine Science)

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

Attention: (SAMS HR team)