

# Geomechanical Laboratory Technician



*The purpose of this position is to provide technical expertise in the Geomechanics Laboratory and with field projects, requiring the determination of rock and soil mass properties.*

<b>Reports to:</b>	Geological Research Laboratories and Collections Manager
<b>Department:</b>	Laboratories and Collections
<b>Group:</b>	Science
<b>Tenure:</b>	Fixed Term to 22 December 2023
<b>Location:</b>	Avalon
<b>Direct reports:</b>	Nil
<b>Budget:</b>	Nil
<b>Career Path:</b>	Specialist
<b>Job Family:</b>	Research, Laboratory and Field Technology
<b>Career Step:</b>	Technician 1 / GNS Band 4
<b>Date:</b>	March 2023

## Position priorities and responsibilities

### Data collection and analysis

- Working in the GNS Science Geomechanics Laboratory and with field projects requiring the determination of rock and soil mass properties.
- Preparing and performing laboratory strength and classification property tests.
- Preparing data and test results as a contribution to professional reports, research manuscripts and presentations being prepared within the Engineering Geology team; completed to contract and project specifications, on time, and to specified budgets.
- Collecting and collating data for additional projects as required.

### Laboratory operations

- Contributing to the geotechnical laboratory operation by maintaining existing equipment (making sure all equipment is serviced so that it remains operational and within required tolerances).
- Contributing to the development of the geotechnical laboratory capability including new testing methods and/or purchase and commissioning of new equipment.
- Collating and managing the Geomechanics Laboratory workplan and workflow.
- Manage the operation and H&S of the Geomechanics Laboratory, Avalon.

## Other

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- Contributing to the compilation and management of geotechnical material property datasets.
- Undertaking projects for your manager/lead scientist as and when required.
- Training and inducting GNS staff, students and visitors into the Geomechanics Laboratory.
- A willingness to work with iwi/Maori groups and organisations to build relationships with the aim of facilitating Maori development
- Other laboratory or technical support duties as required.

## Responsibilities of all staff

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- Comply with all GNS Science policies and procedures.
- Contribute to making GNS Science a healthy and safe place to work by complying with the responsibilities and accountabilities outlined in the Health and Safety Management System Framework.

The responsibilities of this position will change over time to respond to changing needs. The incumbent will need the flexibility to adapt and develop as the company and its environment evolves.

## Key working relationships

- Foster internal and external relationships with scientific staff.

## Person specification

### Skills, knowledge and attributes

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- Knowledge of New Zealand geology and impacts from geological hazards would be an advantage.

### Experience

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#### Essential:

- Relevant technical experience.

#### Desirable:

- Familiarity or ability to perform rock and soil tests in a laboratory, maintain laboratory testing equipment including troubleshooting and creating solutions for repairs.

### Qualifications

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#### Essential:

- Relevant technical qualification or practical experience.

#### Desirable:

- Relevant rock and soil laboratory qualification.

### Other requirements

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#### Essential:

- Computer skills.

#### Desirable:

- Driver's licence
- First aid certificate

## Performance Dimensions

At a high level, GNS Science recognises six **Performance Dimensions**: three relate to technical capability, one relates to leadership (if applicable) and two relate to the *way we work*. Below are the general expectations that are the minimum standards expected of all staff. There are also expectations that specifically relate to the career step associated with the role; you can find these on GNS Online.

### Technical capabilities

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#### Scope, complexity and innovation

- Enduring commitment to maintaining and developing skills and knowledge in area of expertise.
- Both the ability and desire to apply appropriate rigour, principles and practices to deliver quality work in a cost-effective manner.
- Acts in a manner that conveys high personal and professional standards.
- Open to coaching and feedback – incorporates suggestions to find better ways of doing things (to improve own and GNS Science performance).

#### Contribution to GNS Science / profession

- Establishes and maintains effective and collaborative working relationships – with colleagues and external individuals and groups.
- Both the ability and commitment to work in a culturally responsive and inclusive manner; respecting and valuing the diverse perspectives of individuals and groups.
- Takes an interest in early career colleagues, graduates and students – provides coaching and/or mentoring as appropriate. Supports initiatives to promote science careers.
- Prevents harm to self and others by carrying out duties safely and responsibly.

#### Delivery of work

- The ability and commitment to deliver pieces of work and projects on time to required quality, cost and benefit parameters.
- The application of appropriate project management rigour, principles and practices to delivering quality projects in a cost-effective manner
- Supports the team to learn about te ao Māori concepts. Seeks to understand, embed and resource mātauranga Māori processes and research into current and future work programmes. Encourages use of te reo Māori as part of regular and informal team interactions.

### Behavioural expectations

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#### Manaakitanga – we do the right thing

Champions a positive working culture. Works and interacts with colleagues, external partners, stakeholders and customers in a way that is consistent with our values:

- We are **CONNECTED** in our purpose; with each other, with partners and stakeholders and with our communities.
- We are **INSPIRED** by our work to explore, challenge, innovate and aim higher.
- We are **EMPOWERED** to be our best – valued for our differences, encouraged to contribute and enabled to grow and develop.

#### Bicultural commitment

- As a Crown Research Institute, GNS Science is committed to partnering with iwi/hapū and Māori communities and agencies to achieve their science aspirations.
- We do this in a way that is culturally appropriate (**tikanga**) and honours Māori and non-Māori worldviews (**te ao**).

These expectations are intended to support and guide the development of individual staff.