

# Research and Fieldwork Technician



*The purpose of this position is to assist scientists with, and to lead field surveys, primarily magnetotelluric (MT) data acquisition, but also with other scientific instruments as required. Duties will involve the preparation and planning of field operations, the deployment and retrieval of scientific instruments in the field, and the compilation, archiving and processing of measured scientific data in the office.*

<b>Reports to:</b>	Magnetotellurics Team Leader
<b>Department:</b>	Earth and Structure Processes
<b>Group:</b>	Science
<b>Tenure:</b>	Permanent
<b>Location:</b>	Avalon
<b>Direct reports:</b>	Nil
<b>Budget:</b>	Nil
<b>Career Path:</b>	Specialist
<b>Job Family:</b>	Research, Lab and Field Technology
<b>Career Step:</b>	Technician 1 / GNS Band 4
<b>Date:</b>	November 2023

## Position priorities and responsibilities

- Assist senior technicians and scientists in the field to collect MT data, and when experienced independently lead MT field teams.
- Participate in all aspects related to field surveys, including but not limited to:
  - Planning and permitting, e.g. obtaining landowner permission, completing field safety plans, preparation and loading of equipment, and managing logistics.
  - Undertake travel (often ~2 weeks duration) to field areas throughout NZ (and occasionally abroad) to install and retrieve MT sensors. Surveys are primarily land-based (typically 4WD or helicopter access) but may also include assisting in marine MT surveys at sea.
  - Perform data quality assessment in the field, troubleshoot problems as required, and archive data collected at the end of each field survey.
- Test, maintain and repair MT equipment and components, in the workshop and in the field.
- Maintain detailed field records and contribute to the documentation and accurate recording of all equipment maintenance, troubleshooting and repairs.
- Undertake projects as directed by your manager as and when required.

## Responsibilities of all staff

- 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

### Internal:

- Earth Structure and Processes Department

### External:

- Landowners
- Forestry Companies
- Suppliers
- Department of Conservation
- General Public

## Person specification

### Skills, knowledge and attributes

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- Confidence and demonstrated self-reliance when working in remote outdoor locations, and ability to work with minimum supervision.
- Mechanical and electrical experience to undertake maintenance and repair of instrumentation.
- Familiarity with Windows and/or Linux operating systems and demonstrate confidence to use and rapidly acquire knowledge of new equipment and systems to an intermediate level.
- Effective oral communication skills and ability to speak with landowners to permit survey sites.
- Effective written communication skills to clearly document maintenance and repairs, and to write data acquisition reports, as required.

### Experience

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#### Essential:

- Working in teams of people with different skills and backgrounds.

#### Desirable:

- Experience in the deployment, repair and maintenance of technical equipment, and data collection in remote field and off-road environments.

### Qualifications

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#### Essential:

- A tertiary qualification or experience in geophysics, geology, electronics, engineering, instrumentation, or surveying related to science or science support.

#### Desirable:

- A background or qualification in earth science.

## Other requirements

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### Essential:

- A proactive and motivated approach.
- Commitment to achieving a high standard of work, with quality as a prime consideration.
- Innovation, initiative, integrity, and the ability to work effectively as part of a team.
- A methodical approach to problem solving, testing and documentation.
- A good level of fitness sufficient to undertake field related activities and preparedness to work in the outdoors, workshop and in the office.
- Flexibility to travel throughout New Zealand (and potentially abroad) for extended periods of time, possibly at short notice, if required.
- A full driver's licence.

### Desirable:

- 4WD/off road driving experience.
- Current 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

## 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.