

Laboratory Technician

Reports to:	Wairakei Laboratories Manager	Position Status:	Permanent
Unit:	Science Operations – Geological Systems	Location:	Wairakei
Department:	Laboratories & Workshops	Team:	NZGAL
Direct Reports:	Nil	Budget & Delegated Authority:	Refer DFA policy
Career Step:	Technician 1 / Band 4	Job Family:	Research, Lab & Field Technology
Career Path:	Specialist	Date:	May 2026

Our Organisation

Earth Sciences New Zealand was established on 1 July 2025, through the merger of GNS Science and NIWA, with the upcoming acquisition of MetService further strengthening its capabilities. As part of the most significant reform to New Zealand’s science and innovation system in over 30 years, Earth Sciences NZ is positioned as a leading-edge organisation that excels in earth, environment and natural resources science.

With six core science missions – Geological Hazards, Weather and Climate Hazards, Energy, Land and Water, Atmosphere and Climate, and Oceans and Fisheries – Earth Sciences New Zealand is set to become a globally recognised science leader. By integrating multidisciplinary expertise and advanced technologies, the organisation will tackle complex environmental challenges and unlock opportunities for sustainable growth and development.

Following the MetService acquisition, Earth Sciences New Zealand will comprise approximately 1500 staff across 22 sites, managing \$400 million in assets and generating \$370 million in annual revenue. Serving both the public and private sectors, Earth Sciences New Zealand plays a vital role in enhancing national resilience to natural hazards, in supporting economic growth and in delivering innovative science for a sustainable future.

Role Purpose

The purpose of this position is to undertake sample preparation, quantitative analyses, and laboratory results reporting for a range of clients. As appropriate, this role will also support scientific staff with research work.

Position Priorities and Responsibilities

Laboratory Operations

- Provide excellent service to laboratory clients, stakeholders, scientists by performing accurate and careful sample preparation and analysis using modern analytical instruments to budget and

agreed turnaround times and within laboratory QA/QC standards.

- Contribute to smooth laboratory operations by logging data, validating data, generating and reviewing reports in a timely and accurate manner.
- Contribute to laboratory operations by managing assigned clients and maintaining laboratory equipment/instrumentation.
- Grow own laboratory and team capabilities by continuing to learn new techniques and provide training in area of expertise to ensure all operational areas can continue during absences.
- Support laboratory operations by maintaining ISO 17025 accreditation processes.

Health and Safety/Compliance

- Participate in a proactive health, safety, and wellbeing (HS&W) culture within the team by following best practices, engaging in open communication, and contributing to continuous improvement initiatives.
- Support the ongoing compliance of laboratory functions by following all laboratory standard operating procedures, hazardous substance regulations, MPI manuals, and GNS Science policies.

Responsibilities of all Employees

- Comply with all Earth Sciences New Zealand policies, procedures and frameworks, and act in line with the organisational values.
- Contribute to our healthy and safe workplace by following HSW expectations outlined in and integrated into our operational practises and HSW frameworks, including undertaking HSW training and participating in health-monitoring programmes relevant to your work.
- Work effectively as a team member by fostering good relationships and supporting others, providing coverage of other functions as required and ensuring workloads are evenly spread.
- Have the flexibility to adapt and develop as the organisation and its environment evolves.

Key Working Relationships

Internal	External
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experimental Geochemistry team, Geophysics team, Environmental Chemistry team, Volcanology team, Health and Safety team. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NZGAL clients, MPI and IANZ.

Person Specification

Qualifications and Experience

Essential

- BSc in a physical science (chemistry, earth sciences, environmental sciences, geology or related preferred).
- 1-2 years of experience in a laboratory, university laboratory classes included.

Desirable

- Work experience in an analytical laboratory.
- Experience with ISO17025.

Skills, Knowledge and Attributes

- Microsoft Office (Word and Excel) skills, strong computer experience, practical laboratory skills.
- Ability to learn new software including Laboratory Information Management Systems and instrument software, ability to think critically and work independently.