

Stable Isotope Laboratory Sample Technician



The Stable Isotope Laboratory Sample Technician is mainly responsible for logging-in, tracking and preparation of samples and standards for stable isotope analyses, in compliance with MPI and H&S regulations.

Reports to:	Earth and Environmental Science Laboratories Team Leader
Department:	Laboratories and Collections
Group:	Science
Tenure:	Permanent
Location:	Gracefield
Direct reports:	N/A
Budget:	N/A
Career Path:	Specialist
Job Family:	Research, Laboratory and Field Technology
Career Step:	Technician 1 / GNS Band 4
Date:	November 2022

Position priorities and responsibilities

Main priorities are to prepare samples for stable isotope analysis, including:

- Logging-in and tracking of samples
- Weighing of samples
- Pipetting water samples
- Chemical and physical preparation of samples
- Preparing calibration standards
- Cleaning labware
- Monitoring and maintaining stock of lab consumables
- MPI biosecurity compliance and
- Assisting other technical staff where 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:

- Staff in the Stable Isotopes Laboratory
- Lead scientist for Stable Isotope Laboratory
- Radiocarbon laboratory and water dating laboratory staff
- Earth and Environmental Science Laboratories Team Leader
- Earth and Environmental Science Laboratories Team
- Staff in the workshop
- Science staff and internal clients

External:

- External clients
- MPI
- Suppliers
- Couriers
- Overseas clients

Person specification

Skills, knowledge and attributes

- Experience in preparing samples for instrumental analysis
- Hands on experience with chemical extraction methods
- Good health and safety practices
- Experience in database entry and spread sheets
- Good computer skills
- Attention to detail
- Good dexterity with hands and handling small samples
- An interest in, or understanding of, Māori relationships and development issues
- Demonstrated ability to diagnose issues and solve problems
- Good laboratory practice in QC & QA

Experience

Essential:

- Laboratory experience

Desirable:

- Experience working with stable isotope techniques
- Experience in quality assurance/quality control
- Knowledge of analytical chemistry
- Chemical handling

Qualifications

Essential:

- BSc in chemistry or closely related field, or equivalent work experience

Other requirements

Essential:

- Good communication skills
- Good analytical skills
- Ability to work unsupervised
- Clean driver's licence
- Lateral thinking

Desirable:

- Certified or competent chemical handler
- Full driver's license

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

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

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.