



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Geochemical Extractions Technician, Faculty of Environment



Salary: Grade 5 (£27,644 – £31,637 p.a. depending on experience)

Reporting to: Professor Simon Poulton & Emma Black, Technical Services Manager

Reference: ENVEE1811

Fixed term for 6 months to complete specific time limited work

Location: University of Leeds

We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements

Geochemical Extractions Technician, School of Earth and Environment, Faculty of Environment

Overview of the Role

Are you enthusiastic, well organised, and versatile, with a strong work ethic? Do you have experience in working in a geochemistry facility, and want to use your skills and experience to support our geochemical extractions laboratory? Do you have the drive to deliver an excellent service to our academic staff, students and researchers?

We are looking for an experienced geochemistry technician to provide skilled technical support to our research laboratories. Working within our Cohen laboratories, School of Earth and Environment, you will provide a comprehensive technical service in geochemical extractions and the analyses of solutions, supporting major research stakeholders within the Faculty of Environment

You will be responsible for the operation of geochemical facilities within the facility and supervise staff and students in their use, ensuring critical health and safety practices and procedures are followed and maintained. You will have proven geochemical extraction experience and be familiar with standard analysis instrumentation (such as spectroscopy and spectrophotometry techniques), along with a good understanding of current health and safety practices in this space. You will provide support, such as aiding data interpretation, to staff and postgraduates alongside obtaining high-quality research data to accurate and reproducible standards.

With flexibility and depth of knowledge, you will liaise with academic stakeholders to support novel method development. You will also be responsible for maintaining equipment and stocks of chemicals and consumables and overseeing safe working practices within the facility. You will be responsible for training visitors in relevant techniques. In addition, you will produce standard operating procedures (SOPs), risk assessments and other documentation as required.

You will have a degree in a relevant subject or discipline together with experience working within a geochemical laboratory. You will have good organisational and communication skills, and the ability to work on your own initiative and as part of a team.



Main duties and responsibilities

- Routine production of high-quality geochemical data, alongside maintaining consumable supplies and ensuring equipment and instrumentation is in good working order;
- Performing sequential Fe extractions, pyrite extractions, phosphorus phase association extractions, total element extractions, and other extractions when required;
- Analysis of dissolved elements via Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy (AAS), Inductively Coupled Plasma Atomic Emission Spectroscopy (ICP-OES), Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS), spectrophotometry and other techniques when required;
- Supporting facility users with interpretation of data, such as Fe speciation, trace metal and P phase association data in the context of modern redox-sensitive environments and ancient oceans;
- Work effectively with staff and students, providing technical advice in relation to the work area and techniques used;
- Ensuring safe use and maintenance of all facility equipment and instrumentation, setting strict health and safety standards in liaison with Faculty Health and Safety directives;
- Understand, promote and apply relevant COSHH/risk assessments and departmental health and safety protocols ensuring procedures are followed at all times;
- Maintaining best practices and keeping up with sector advances, method improvements and feeding these back into the operational practices of the facility.

These duties provide a framework for the role and should not be regarded as a definitive list. Other reasonable duties may be required consistent with the grade of the post.

Qualifications and skills

Essential

- A relevant degree; or a BTEC higher level (or equivalent) in a relevant subject; (such as Earth Sciences) or equivalent experience within a scientific research or teaching environment;



- Demonstrable experience and technical competence in geochemistry with high-level knowledge of the interpretation of Fe speciation, trace metal and P phase association data in the context of modern redox-sensitive environments and ancient oceans;
- Experience of setting up quality control and monitoring systems;
- Demonstrable experience of training research staff and/or students in a variety of geochemical or related discipline laboratory, instrument or equivalent activities;
- Effective data management skills with experience of working with a range of programmes including Microsoft Office, email and web-based applications;
- Good interpersonal skills, including the ability to maintain strong working relationships with colleagues at all levels;
- Ability to prioritise own workload, working both independently and as part of a team with a flexible approach to work and good organisational and time management skills;
- Good written and verbal communication and presentation skills;
- An interest in and ability to learn and adapt to new technical/research situations.

Desirable

- Experience of input into scientific research and/or technical publications;
- Experience of presentation of scientific research and/or technical applications at meetings or conferences.

Additional information

Please note: If you are not a British or Irish citizen, from 1 January 2021 you will require permission to work in the UK. This will normally be in the form of a visa but, if you are an EEA/Swiss citizen and resident in the UK before 31 December 2020, this may be your passport or status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

Please note that due to Home Office visa requirements, this role may only be suitable for first-time Skilled Worker visa applicants if they are eligible for salary concessions. For more information please visit: www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa

Information on other visa options is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/work-visas>



Find out more about the [Faculty of Environment](#)

Find out more about the [School of Earth and Environment](#)

Find out more about our [Research and associated facilities](#)

Find out more about Equality and Inclusion in the [faculty](#)

Working at Leeds

We are a campus based community and regular interaction with campus is an expectation of all roles in line with academic and service needs and the requirements of the role. We are also open to discussing flexible working arrangements. To find out more about the benefits of working at the University and what it is like to live and work in the Leeds area visit our [Working at Leeds](#) information page.

Our University

As an international research-intensive university, we welcome students and staff from all walks of life and from across the world. We foster an inclusive environment where all can flourish and prosper, and we are proud of our strong commitment to student education. Within the Faculty of Environment we are dedicated to diversifying our community and we welcome the unique contributions that individuals can bring, and particularly encourage applications from, but not limited to Black, Asian, people who belong to a minority ethnic community; people who identify as LGBT+; and disabled people.

The Faculty of Environment has received a prestigious Athena SWAN silver award from [Advance HE](#), the national body that promotes equality in the higher education sector. This award represents the combined efforts of all schools in the Faculty and shows the positive actions we have taken to ensure that our policies, processes and ethos all promote an equal and inclusive environment for work and study.

Information for disabled candidates

Information for disabled candidates, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found on our [Accessibility](#) information page or by getting in touch with us at hr@leeds.ac.uk



Criminal record information

Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

A criminal record check is not required for this position. However, all applicants will be required to declare if they have any 'unspent' criminal offences, including those pending.

Any offer of appointment will be in accordance with our Criminal Records policy. You can find out more about required checks and declarations in our [Criminal Records](#) information page.

