

JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB ROLE: Aquarium & Research Facilities Technician

JOB PURPOSE

To ensure the effective operation, maintenance and improvement of research facilities with a focus on our unique seawater life support and aquatic systems. You will support the aquarium team to design, develop and maintain experimental set ups for research projects and take an active role in ensuring animal care and welfare. As part of the Operations Directorate you will work as part of the wider team to support us as a destination for marine biology discovery.

DIRECTORATE: Operations

Essential experience/skills/qualifications:

- Technical skills and experience of building and maintaining aquatic life support systems including equipment such as pumps, filters and protein skimmers.
- Technical skills and experience for repairing and maintaining mechanical systems.
- Knowledge and experience of health, safety and environmental good practice in an aquarium/research or similar environment.
- Excellent time management and proven ability to manage and organise a responsive and planned workload with competing requirements.
- Willingness and ability to work a rota to cover early mornings, evenings and weekend/bank holidays.
- Physical ability to undertake a range of hands-on activities including manual handling, working with sea water, operating equipment and spending long periods standing.
- Ability to supervise and coordinate others work such as Students or Volunteers.
- IT skills including use of Microsoft packages and ability to learn other systems.
- Strong verbal and written communication skills to communicate across a range of audiences from visitors to Senior Staff.
- Ability to work cooperatively across groups e.g. staff, volunteers and contractors.
- Science and critical thinking skills with the ability to identify solutions.
- Ability to work independently.
- Ability to undertake tasks accurately, efficiently and with attention to detail.
- Full driving licence.

Desirable experience/skills/qualifications:

- Knowledge and experience of animal husbandry.
- Knowledge of animal ethics or Home Office regulations and requirements regarding animal research facilities.
- Laboratory Technician Level 3 Apprenticeship or similar post-secondary education or training.

- Health and safety training/qualifications.
- Experience of Building Management Systems e.g. monitoring and controlling systems to ensure optimum conditions and performance.
- Experience of building relationships in an organisation and/or a customer environment
- Experience of undertaking risk assessments and associated training/induction of others (e.g. PUWER, COSHH etc).
- Willingness to undertake relevant training and development for the role such as Named Animal Care and Welfare Office training.

Key responsibilities

- Monitor and maintain the effective and correct operation of seawater life support and other aquatic systems such as re-circulating and experimental tank set ups.
- Ensure all planned and unplanned repair, maintenance and documentation for seawater infrastructure and other research equipment is in place and to the required standards.
- Ensure the research aquarium and wider facilities are welcoming, safe and efficient through implementation and monitoring of relevant policies and regulations.
- Support research experimental tank design, development and maintenance.
- Proactively monitor key systems and fixed infrastructure and ensure effective operation and relevant compliance.
- With the manager, support the wider team to ensure compliance and cleanliness of research facilities.
- Oversee and respond to day-to-day fixed and equipment infrastructure operation either directly or through colleagues and third-party contractors.
- Supervise works within your area of responsibility including third parties.
- Build relationships and an understanding of business needs within and across functions and departments.
- With the aquarium manager, ensure site security and safe working practices of staff and contractors through risk assessment and training/induction.
- With the manager, ensure quality and standards of delivery for your area of responsibility including animal care and welfare.
- Support the planning and implementation of relevant projects from project proposals to public engagement events.
- Support the Health and Safety Advisor in ensuring health and safety reporting/investigation/inspection.
- Be an active citizen of the MBA community, working across teams and boundaries to achieve MBA aims.
- Flexibility to work alternative or unsocial hours on occasion to support business needs and on a rota basis.
- Undertake ad hoc duties within job holder's capabilities and grading of post.