Geochronology Support Scientist
UKRI – NERC – BGS
Keyworth, Nottingham
£24,435 to £26,560 per annum (depending on qualifications and experience)
Full Time – 37 hours (a range of flexible working options may be available)
2 year Fixed Term Appointment

About us

The British Geological Survey (BGS) is an applied geoscience research centre that is housed in UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and affiliated to the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC). It is a world leading geological survey that provides a core science mission to inform government of science related to the subsurface and its interfaces and also undertakes applied research for solutions to earth and environmental processes, both in the UK and globally. It is funded directly by UKRI as well as through research grants and via private sector contracts.

BGS has an annual budget of approximately £60 million and employs 650 people. It has two main sites, a head office in Keyworth near Nottingham and the Lyell Centre, which is a joint collaboration with Heriot Watt University in Edinburgh. BGS works with more than 150 private sector organisations as well as having close links with 40 universities and sponsors approximately 100 PhD students each year.

About the role

We are seeking a highly motivated graduate or post graduate for a two year appointment at a national research facility for geochronology.

Working in a key role in an internationally-leading geochronology laboratory, you will provide support in NIGL-GTF's U-Pb geochronology programme by undertaking, to a high standard, sample preparation, low-blank ion exchange chemistry and isotope ratio mass spectrometry.

As part of the team you will also be expected to interact and engage with staff as well as a range of post-graduate level visitors, and assist with troubleshooting issues within the work flow and help generate practical chemistry based solutions that assist with data quality and laboratory efficiency. You will also contribute to the maintenance of the Health and Safety systems within the laboratory environment.

Under the guidance of the NIGL-GTF team, you will undertake a personal research project focussed on improving an aspect of the efficiency and efficacy of NIGL-GTF's chemical purification procedures or analytical chemistry, with the aim of publishing in a peer reviewed journal. The project will provide experience and training in mass spectrometry techniques.

About you

With a BSc or MSci, 2:1 or higher in Chemistry or 1st Geology you should also have extensive laboratory experience in a chemistry or analytical geochemistry environment equating to >6 months (such as university laboratory practical's) In addition, you should have experience of handling and use of acids in a laboratory environment, including aspects of health and safety.

The core tasks will be based around co-ordinating and maintaining complex laboratory work flows therefore you should have evidence of attention to detail, good time management and organisational skills.

The role will involve multidisciplinary team working and therefore you must be able to demonstrate an ability to lead teams, manage upward and participate as a team member.

What we offer

A generous benefits package is also offered, including a very competitive pension scheme, 30 days annual leave plus bank holidays and access to flexi-time.

Please note that any internal BGS staff applying for this post would, if successful, be appointed to new UKRI Terms and Conditions and pay.

How to Apply

Applicants are required to include a cover letter outlining their suitability for this role. We would stress the importance of this paperwork in our selection process. **A well thought through application addressing the advertised essential and desirable criteria for the post will be considered far more favourably than a generic covering letter and CV.**

Applications are being handled by UK Shared Business Services, to apply please visit our job board at http://www.topcareer.jobs/Vacancy/irc247288_8857.aspx

Applicants who are unable to apply online should contact us by telephone on +44 (0)1793 867000.

Closing date for receipt of applications is **18 November 2018**. Interviews will be held on or around 10 December 2018.

BGS provides a range of flexible working options including flexible working patterns, compressed hours and home working so if you have a need for flexibility, please raise this in the recruitment process when your needs, balanced with the requirements of the role, will be fully considered.

UKRI values diversity and welcomes applications from all sections of the community. People with disabilities and those from ethnic minorities are currently under-represented and their applications are particularly welcome. There is a guaranteed Interview scheme for suitable candidates with disabilities.

The British Geological Survey is an Investors in People organisation and has achieved Bronze status for Athena SWAN – a scheme that recognises an organisation's commitment and progress in developing a diverse and inclusive workforce.

Specific Skills Criteria		
	Essential	***Desirable***
QUALIFICATIONS	BSc or MSci, 2:1 or higher in Chemistry or 1st Geology,	A level Maths (or equivalent level university course) PhD geochemistry, chemistry, Masters level research
EXPERIENCE	Extensive laboratory experience in a chemistry or analytical geochemistry environment equating to >6 months (such as university laboratory practical's) Handling and use of acids in a laboratory environment, including aspects of health and safety. Independent working and quality control and quality assurance procedures and evaluation. Independent research (e.g., undergrad thesis project)	Mass spectrometry Clean/low blank laboratory experience Acid handling and distillation Microscope operation and micromanipulation of samples under magnification
KNOWLEDGE	Understanding of the principles of data validation, quality assurance and quality control	Experience using R, Matlab, MS Access, or similar database software

	A good grounding in mathematics, statistics and uncertainties. An awareness of the use of statistics as applied to analytical data. MS Excel or similar for data manipulation Knowledge of Risk Assessments and Health and Safety systems and practices	Principles and practice of radio-isotope dating, geochemistry Awareness of BGS, NERC and UKRI
SKILLS AND ABILITIES	Methodical approach and good attention to detail Good organisational skills, particularly in a multi-user laboratory environment Good personal time management Good interpersonal skills, understanding the importance of good communication across a small team,. Ability to work unsupervised Ability to prioritise work and meet tight deadlines Ability to work within a variety of teams, demonstrating an ability to lead teams, manage upward and participate as a team member Ability to adapt to changing priorities	Ability to present their science clearly to non-scientists Effective written communication skills Ability to train other students and researchers Ability to empathise with the needs of the business and colleagues and relate this to your support role in the organisation
PERSONAL QUALITIES	Approachable Alignment to BGS Core values Flexible and willing to help out where and when required to the benefit of the business	
MOTIVATION	Demonstrates an interest in the work of BGS and NERC	

	Displays an enthusiasm for their science, their role and a desire to develop this further Demonstrates curiosity and a drive to resolve scientific problems Self-motivated	Demonstrates an interest in their own Continuing Professional Development

disability confident EMPLOYER

Athena SWAN Bronze Award

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE