Geomicrobiologist
UKRI – NERC – BGS
Keyworth, Nottingham
£24,777 to £26,932 per annum (depending on qualifications and experience)
Full-Time – 37 hours a week (a range of flexible working options may be available)
Permanent Appointment

About the role

You will play a role in sustaining and developing BGS's future capability as a leading global provider of research, information and advice on microbial impacts on geological processes and applications, especially in the area of decarbonisation and resource management.

The post involves working alongside other BGS staff and PhD students in the geomicrobiology laboratory, as well as other parts of BGS. You will be involved in laboratory and field based work on a diverse range of projects, likely to include geological disposal of radioactive waste, storage of carbon dioxide, microbe-mineral interactions, gas storage and methane cycling.

The primary tasks of this role will be to:

- Set up and run geomicrobiology microcosm experiments as part of our programme of research in areas such as radioactive waste microbiology and carbon capture and storage microbiology
- Conduct microbiological assays of abundance and activity, particularly in difficult to handle samples such as clays
- Collect data from continuously logged microbiology experiments, data management using Microsoft Excel spreadsheets and basic data analysis
- General routine laboratory work – preparation of media and solutions, preparation of samples for chemical analysis, in-lab chemical assays, keeping Health & Safety records up to date and preparing Risk Assessments for new techniques
- UK fieldwork – involvement in the geomicrobiology sampling activities of the UK Geoenergy Observatories project, which may include UK travel and short stays away from home.

You will also be expected to:

- Assist with science admin and project research within the wider Radioactive Waste Team
- Conduct molecular microbiology analysis after training (e.g. DNA extraction, PCR, sequencing).

About you

You will have a first degree, with a minimum of a 2:1 (or 2:2 plus MSc) in an appropriate scientific subject. We are looking with someone to work at the interface between earth/environmental sciences and biological sciences, so it is likely that your degree will either be in environmental sciences that included a component of microbiology, or a microbiology degree that included modules on environmental microbiology or other environmental science subjects.

In this role you will support the work of the BGS geomicrobiology laboratory, including routine laboratory tasks, as well as working with other BGS scientists to deliver results on various research projects. As such, this role would not suit someone looking to develop an independent postdoctoral research profile.

What we offer

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

We also offer the 'Bike to Work' scheme, free parking, health and wellbeing support, social clubs and on-site sports facilities.

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.

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/irc250709_9849.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 Friday 20th September 2019. Interviews will take place mid-October 2019.

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.

We are committed to promoting equality and diversity across our organisation as well as across all areas of our science community. As such, we aim to have a workforce with employees from all backgrounds with people who are passionate about earth science and who share our commitment to work for the good of the environment and the benefit of society.

We will actively seek to avoid discrimination on the grounds of age, being or becoming a transsexual person, being married or in a civil partnership, being pregnant or on maternity leave, disability, race (including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin), sex or sexual orientation.

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	• First degree, with a minimum of a 2:1 (or 2:2 plus MSc) in an appropriate scientific subject. This is likely to be either a degree in environmental sciences that included a component of microbiology, or a microbiology degree that included modules on environmental microbiology or other environmental science subjects)	
EXPERIENCE	• Evidence of experience or interest in geomicrobiology/microbial ecology/environmental microbiology	• Completed an undergraduate dissertation project relevant to the work of BGS microbiology laboratory • Experience working in any laboratory setting outside of your degree course requirements (e.g. work experience or paid employment) • Experience of working in environmental sciences outside of your degree course requirements (e.g. work experience or paid employment)
KNOWLEDGE	• Knowledge of standard Microsoft programs (e.g. Word, PowerPoint, Outlook, Excel)	

SKILLS AND ABILITIES	• Ability to use initiative and work unsupervised after training	• Additional skills/ability to carry out any of the following will be beneficial: • Data collection and handling, • Molecular biology techniques, • Geochemistry techniques, • Bioinformatics or relevant related skills (e.g. experience using Python or R), • Working with high-pressure fluid flow systems, specifically in the context of laboratory experiments
PERSONAL QUALITIES	• Must be prepared to carry out UK based fieldwork involving short periods away from home	
MOTIVATION	• Demonstrates an interest in the work of BGS and NERC	

disability confident EMPLOYER

Athena SWAN Bronze Award

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE