

Lab Manager (Assistant Research Scientist)

Fitzsimmons Chemical Oceanography group, Texas A&M University, College Station

The [Fitzsimmons Group](#) in the [Department of Oceanography](#) at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas is hiring a new Laboratory Manager (formal title: Assistant Research Scientist). The Fitzsimmons Group studies marine trace metal biogeochemistry and is heavily involved in the [International GEOTRACES Program](#). Current research topics include trace metal analytical methods, deep-sea mining, hydrothermal plumes, polar oceanography, and marine biogeochemistry.

The Fitzsimmons Group is seeking an Assistant Research Scientist to serve a Laboratory and Field Program Manager role, which involves helping to lead funded research projects involving the collection, analysis, and interpretation of seawater samples and trace metal data. The position involves co-leading oceanographic field expeditions, co-mentoring and training students and research staff, managing laboratory operations, conducting laboratory analyses, and contributing to scientific proposals, publications, and presentations.

Assistant Research Scientists carry PI eligibility. This Lab Manager position is envisioned to be a full partnership with PI Jessica Fitzsimmons, where proposals are generated and projects are managed together as a team.

Opportunities to Contribute

- Manage the daily operation and organization of the research laboratory, including the trace metal clean room.
- Manage laboratory inventory, supplies, equipment, and safety compliance.
- Train laboratory personnel in safety procedures, analytical methods, and best practices.
- Mentor students and provide technical support for research activities.
- Prepare equipment and supplies for oceanographic field campaigns.
- Lead or assist with field sampling operations and troubleshoot field equipment.
- Collect, process, and manage research samples following established procedures.
- Conduct trace metal analyses using wet chemistry and ICP-MS techniques.
- Analyze, interpret, and report research data while ensuring data quality and integrity.
- Prepare figures, text, and references for manuscripts, presentations, and/or grant proposals.
- Collaborate with research teams to publish and communicate scientific findings.
- Maintain laboratory websites and other research communication materials.

Required Qualifications

- PhD in Oceanography, Earth Science, or related field.
- Relevant professional experience with making geochemical analyses **and** taking shipboard sample collections at sea.

- Ability to work outdoors exposed to various weather conditions, potential allergens, elevated noise levels, and heat/cold – for required shipboard fieldwork from the tropics to Antarctica.
- Ability to move heavy objects with assistance – for lab organization and shipboard fieldwork.
- Ability to drive a vehicle – for lab organization and fieldwork.
- Ability to travel independently to other and/or remote locations for 1-12 weeks at a time by driving and/or flying on commercial airlines – for conferences and fieldwork.

A well-qualified candidate may also possess:

- Ability to manage multiple priorities in a collaborative research environment.
- Ability to work independently and maintain effective professional relationships.
- Experience working in trace metal clean rooms.
- Familiarity with shipboard collection of trace metal clean samples and team leadership at sea.
- Knowledge of analyzing samples by plasma mass spectrometry.
- Effective communication and interpersonal skills.
- Experience with trace metal, isotope, and speciation analyses.
- Experience with oceanographic field sampling and laboratory instrumentation.
- Experience mentoring students or research personnel.
- Strong organizational, analytical, and scientific writing skills.
- Advanced problem solving skills.

Please apply!

We strongly encourage you to submit a cover letter describing your experience and professional goals and a CV. These documents will assist us with the review process. You may upload these documents on the application under CV/Resume.

Salary: Compensation will be commensurate for the [Assistant Research Scientist title](#) based on the selected candidate's education and experience.

Why Texas A&M University?

Texas A&M University is committed to enriching the learning and working environment by promoting a culture that respects all perspectives, talents & lived experiences.

The Department of Oceanography in the College of Arts and Sciences at Texas A&M University (TAMU) is part of an alliance of Ocean Sciences at Texas A&M that spans the Marine Biology and Marine Sciences Departments at TAMU Galveston and the Geochemical and Environmental Research Group. This alliance of Ocean Sciences represents a truly unique concentration of educational and research resources. Our educational and research capacity is greatly enhanced by close ties to the College Departments of Atmospheric Sciences, Geography, and Geology & Geophysics, as well as the Berg Hughes Center, the Gulf Coast Repository, and Texas Center for Climate Studies.

Other benefits of a major college town include easy access to sporting and cultural events, state-of-the-art recreation facilities, and tourist sites such as the Bush Library and Museum. College Station also boasts a reasonable cost-of-living and no long commutes. Benefits of a Texas A&M University position include:

- [Medical, prescription drug, dental, vision, life and AD&D, flexible spending accounts, and long-term disability insurance](#) with Texas A&M contributing to employee health and basic life premiums
- [12-15 days](#) of annual paid holidays
- Up to [eight hours of paid sick leave](#) and at least [eight hours of paid vacation](#) each month
- Automatic enrollment in the [Teacher Retirement System of Texas](#)
- Health and Wellness: [Free exercise programs and release time](#)
- Professional Development: All employees have access to free [LinkedIn Learning](#) training, webinars, and limited financial support to attend conferences, workshops, and more
- [Educational release time and tuition assistance](#) for completing a degree while a Texas A&M employee
- [Living Well](#), a program at Texas A&M that has been built by employees, for employees.