

OCEANOGRAPHIC ASSISTANT

NATURE OF WORK

This is varied professional and technical work in support of oceanographic research activities.

The employee of this class is responsible for the co-ordination of various activities relating to oceanographic field work; the designing of oceanographic underwater moorings; the analysis of collected data; the operation of oceanographic equipment and representing the research team during field trips. Work involves considerable contact with researchers, staff and students as well as representatives of outside research institutes. The employee is required to exercise a considerable degree of initiative and independent judgement in the performance of work under the direction of the Director. Supervision may be exercised over subordinate professional and technical employees. Work is reviewed principally by observation of results obtained and through conferences.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF WORK

Co-ordinates a variety of activities in support of oceanographic field work; discusses field work requirements with researchers; contacts external research institutes regarding cruise scheduling and equipment sharing, as required; recommends equipment purchase, as necessary; co-ordinates transportation of equipment; calibrates and tests oceanographic equipment.

Discusses oceanographic underwater mooring requirements with faculty members; designs mooring to support equipment including current meters, tide gauges and temperature loggers; maintains liaison with Technical Services regarding fabrication and construction of moorings; ensures that constructed apparatus meets operational requirements of researchers.

Reviews information received from oceanographic equipment; conducts analysis of data using computer facilities; develops computer interface to assist in data processing from various oceanographic equipment; analyzes computer output such as plots and printouts.

Operates a variety of oceanographic equipment including current meters, acoustic profiles, salinometers, underwater camera and conductivity temperature depth device; calibrates and tests equipment; requests equipment repair and maintenance as required; illustrates equipment operation to researchers, staff and students, as requested.

Participates in field trips on research cruises; ensures that necessary data including water or sediment samples, current speed, direction, temperature and conductivity as well as nutrient and oxygen analysis is obtained and that equipment is operational; performs minor repairs and maintenance, as required; represents research team on research cruises, as necessary; prepares cruise reports.

Maintains liaison with external research institutes regarding research cruise arrangements and logistics; refers unusual problems to immediate supervisor; ensures that research cruise schedule is revised, as required.

May supervise professional and/or technical staff; assigns and reviews completed work; sets priorities; ensures that work is performed in a safe manner.

Maintains appropriate records of vehicle use; schedules vehicle use and ensures that necessary maintenance and repairs are conducted.

Perform scuba diving to ensure proper set up of oceanographic equipment, as required.

Perform related work as required.

REQUIREMENTS OF WORK

Experience in oceanographic research support; graduation with a degree from a four-year college or university with major course work in Physics, Geophysics or Physical Oceanography; or any equivalent combination of experience and training which provides the following knowledge, abilities and skills:

Knowledge of the methods, materials, procedures and techniques used in research, experimental laboratory and field work.

Knowledge of the principles of oceanography.

Knowledge of the application of mechanical methods in physical oceanography.

Knowledge of the practical and potential values of research and experimentation in oceanography.

Knowledge of the repair and maintenance of oceanographic equipment.

Knowledge of the handling and operation of physical oceanographic equipment.

Knowledge of the hazards and safety precautions involved in oceanographic field work.

Knowledge of the form and style of research writing.

Ability to participate in the evaluation and analysis of existing techniques and procedures and to assist in devising new techniques and procedures.

Ability to conduct, design and plan construction or fabrication of oceanographic underwater moorings.

Ability to locate and identify malfunctions or deflections in equipment or apparatus and to make repairs.

Ability to observe, analyse and report objectively the results of research experimentation.

Ability to understand and follow complex oral and written instructions.

Ability to scuba dive.

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with faculty members, staff, supervisors and research personnel.

Skill in the care and use of oceanographic tools and equipment.

NECESSARY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Possession of a valid Province of Newfoundland and Labrador driver's license; certification in scuba diving; physically fit as determined by Memorial University fitness standards for performing scuba diving.

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