



The Australian Wine
Research Institute

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Title of position: Technical Officer Wine Texture Chemistry

Reporting to: Senior Research Scientist

Overview: The Technical Officer will provide analytical support for research projects dealing with wine macromolecules (tannins, polysaccharides, proteins, carotenoids and pigments). The projects will investigate the impact of macromolecules on aspects of wine texture, stability, clarity and extraction.

Qualifications: A degree in a relevant Science discipline, preferably analytical chemistry

Experience: Sufficient experience in laboratory work to fulfil the requirements of the role

Principal Accountabilities:

1. Provide technical support for research in wine chemistry, including the collection, preparation and presentation of samples for analysis, data analysis, and the preparation of suitable analytical standards.
2. Provide technical support for instrument maintenance and set-up, and analysis of samples by HPLC and LC-MS.
3. Provide technical support for the extraction, isolation, purification and structural characterisation of non-volatile compounds from grapes and wine.
4. Perform as directed chemical analysis according to defined procedures to meet agreed turnaround times, and ensure the appropriate level of accuracy and reproducibility.
5. Support the establishment and conduct of experimental trials, which may include laboratory-based experiments, vinification experiments, data processing, statistical analysis and data collation and storage.
6. Contribute to the efficient and effective operation of research laboratories. This may include procurement, general laboratory maintenance and housekeeping, calibration of laboratory equipment, instruction of others in the correct use of research laboratory equipment and maintenance of and repairs to laboratory equipment.
7. Using best practice, record on a daily basis all activities, details of any experimental work and outcomes of data processing and interpretation.
8. Actively contribute to the reporting of research progress and outcomes through reports and other modes of communication.
9. Assist in the drafting and review of relevant risk assessments and standard operating procedures.
10. Undertake other duties as directed by the Senior Research Scientist, the Group Manager – Research or the Managing Director.

Person Specification:

1. Practical understanding of and experience in scientific research.
2. Sound knowledge of the principles of modern analytical chemistry techniques and instrumentation, specifically chromatography techniques.
3. Experience in the maintenance and troubleshooting of analytical instruments.
4. Ability to work and communicate successfully with their manager, stakeholders and within a multidisciplinary environment and across research and industry groups.
5. Ability to maintain effective working relationships and contribute positively in a team environment.
6. Ability to meet deadlines.
7. Superior oral and written communication skills.

Workplace Health and Safety Responsibilities:

Employees and students must take reasonable care to protect their own health and safety, and have responsibilities to:

1. Ensure that they do not increase the risk to the health, safety or welfare of others through any act or omission.
2. Obey reasonable instructions that are designed to protect their health, safety and welfare.
3. Use, in the appropriate manner, equipment that is provided to protect their health, safety or welfare.
4. Not wilfully interfere with, or misuse, items or facilities provided in the interest of health, safety or welfare of employees.
5. Ensure that they are not affected by alcohol or any other drug to such an extent that they endanger themselves or others.
6. Report promptly, any hazards, incidents or injuries to their Manager.