



The Australian Wine
Research Institute

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Title of Position: Technical Officer

Reporting to: Research Manager

Overview: The Technical Officer provides analytical support for research projects dealing with various wine microorganisms and analytes (e.g. tannin, polysaccharides, proteins, volatile aroma compounds). The projects will investigate the impact of oxygen on wine style and the influence of macromolecules on aspects of wine texture, stability, clarity and extraction.

Qualifications: A degree in a Science discipline with a relevant speciality (e.g. biochemistry or analytical chemistry).

Experience: Sufficient experience in laboratory and field work to fulfil the requirements of the role. Desirable experience will include graphical and statistical information management using statistical packages (e.g. Graphpad PRISM), liquid chromatography (HPLC) and/or compound isolation (e.g. DNA or protein extraction).

Principal Accountabilities:

1. Provide technical support for research into wine chemistry and microbiology, including the collection, preparation and presentation of samples for analysis using reference methods.
2. Provide technical support for analysis of samples and maintenance of instruments and the preparation of suitable analytical standards.
3. Provide technical support for the extraction, isolation, purification and structural characterisation of various analytes from grapes and wine.
4. Perform the necessary analyses according to defined procedures to meet agreed turnaround times, and ensure a high level of accuracy and reproducibility.
5. Support the establishment and maintenance 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 Research Scientist, Senior Research Scientist, the Group Manager – Research or the Managing Director.

Person Specification:

1. Experience in a research or diagnostic laboratory setting
2. Excellent interpersonal skills to be able to work effectively in a team environment
3. Effective time management skills and ability to successfully manage competing priorities
4. 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/Team Leader.