

## **Grade 6 Technician**

### **Summary**

There is some overlap between the specialist and the team leader roles, with the latter having more emphasis on the management of resources, particularly people management. Typical activities for a Technical Specialist or Technical Team Leader at Grade 6 include:

- Providing an efficient and effective technical service for staff and/or students
- Providing theoretical, scientific and technical support, guidance and training to staff and students
- Undertaking and collaborating in the development of new techniques to test hypotheses or theories
- Maintaining expert knowledge in field of specialism
- Contributing to grant application writing
- Responsibility for maintaining data sets and ensuring data integrity and accessibility; presenting findings at review meetings & conferences and participating in discussions to inform the research project
- Ensuring compliance with legislative and regulatory matters such as safe working practices and ensuring equipment is maintained in good working order. Initiate and write standard operating procedures and carry out risk assessments within area of expertise.
- Assisting with planning and organisation of resources for the smooth running of the laboratory including sourcing and costing of equipment and materials in line with local policy and purchasing guidelines
- Responsibility for overseeing that the general work area and laboratory are kept secure, tidy and that the provision of services and equipment is maintained
- Supervising junior laboratory staff, students and or visitors

### **General qualifications**

A degree in a science subject or equivalent vocational qualification and relevant experience. Some roles may have specific additional requirements.

## **Expectations of a Grade 6 Technician**

### **Communication**

May contribute to academic papers and write standard operating procedures. Where required, demonstrates confidence in delivering presentations to the laboratory group and can provide expert advice to colleagues and students on own area of expertise and more generally on conceptual ideas or complex information

### **Teamwork and motivation**

May be required to deliver training to staff and/or students such as induction, safe working practices or demonstrating specialist techniques

*Specialist:* Works as an active and supportive member of the team, deputising for supervisors by leading project groups and mentoring fellow team members.

*Team leader:* Oversees operational tasks within a team, including work allocation and communication of feedback. Encouraging good practice by setting a good example and showing a flexible approach to delivering team results. Provides input into team management decisions and contributes to maximising team performance by reviewing performance and making recommendations for improvements.

### **Liaison and networking**

Ensures information is disseminated appropriately and builds relationships and contacts, both internal and external, to facilitate future exchange of information

### **Decision making**

Demonstrates ability to make decisions in own area of work and collaborates with the wider team on joint decisions and has some opportunity to contribute to the decision making of others

### **Planning and organising**

Works independently and determines own work pattern and task order with indirect or remote supervision from a line manager. Manages ad hoc short term projects, ensuring effective use of resources.

Required to plan, prioritise and organise resources of others in the team.

**Initiative and problem solving**

Demonstrates ability to solve problems confidently, applying initiative, creativity and judgement using reasoning to break down the issues and assess the different options. Occasionally deals with complex problems comprising a mass of, often conflicting data, and applies creativity to approach problems from different perspectives.

**Analysis and research**

Designs and conducts experiments using appropriate methods. Gathers, analyses and manipulates research data and presents findings to the group.

**Sensory and physical demands**

Carries out experiments requiring concentration and / or co ordination

**Work environment**

Understands how the work environment could impact on their own work or that of a colleague and ensures appropriate health and safety measures are taken to maintain a safe working environment

**Teaching and learning support**

Provides training and support to staff and students on specific activities or tasks. Likely to be required to help students with practical work

**Knowledge and experience**

Shows proficiency in own area of expertise and acts as a point of reference to others and demonstrates continuous specialist development