



Name: Shaun Miller

Job Title: General lab technician

Organisation: British Antarctic Survey

Qualifications: Average GCSE grades
National diploma in media
English degree

Salary: £15,000 - £25,000

About me and my job:

I am a 'general lab technician', and I work in science support, helping scientists to carry out experiments. My role also involves my assisting the laboratory managers in maintaining the facilities, which includes caring for the animals in the marine aquarium.

I really enjoy the variety of work that my role offers, I assist with numerous different projects, allowing me to meet and work with people from several departments. This constantly presents new challenges, enabling me to learn new concepts. My role requires me to work within several scientific fields.

Initially I applied for an eight week contract to assist the geology department logistics project. The work was completed ahead of schedule and this presented the opportunity to work elsewhere within the organisation whilst my contract ran down. This evolved into the creation of my role and I have been offered contract extensions since.

Advice about the sector:

It surprised me that my role and others like it exist! With sufficient training, anybody can become competent in this role, and although a degree in your chosen field will be beneficial for career progression, it is not a necessity.

Regardless of your qualifications, you must have a willingness to learn new things and to show enthusiasm for the projects you work on.