

Laboratory Technician

Location: Texas A&M University, College Station TX



Start Date: Flexible with ideal start date Jan 2023.

Details: The initial appointment would be one year, however funding can continue for up to three years assuming adequate progress. Pay will be commensurate on education level and experience. Minimal educational requirement is a bachelor's degree, but candidates with higher degrees and experience levels will be considered and compensated appropriately.

Background: The [Strader Lab](https://straderlab.com/) (Texas A&M University) studies how environmental change impacts marine invertebrates from the level of the epigenomic landscape to an evolutionary ecology viewpoint. Our lab group is working to develop the *Cassiopea* jellyfish as a model to study eco-evolutionary dynamics in a global change context. Ultimately, we are interested in teasing apart the relative role of adaptive processes and phenotypic plasticity in contributing to biological invasion and characterizing genes associated with high environmental tolerance in a symbiotic cnidarian.

Position: The Strader lab is looking for a Lab Technician/Aquarist to join our growing research group. The primary role of this position will be working to get long-term manipulative experiments up and running, setup and maintain aquaria for various marine invertebrates, as well as general lab and aquarium management. This position will involve the maintenance of clonal *Cassiopea* jellyfish for experiments.

Primary responsibilities will include basic laboratory management, such as ordering and inventory of lab consumables, and overseeing EH&S compliance of all lab spaces. The candidate will also participate in field and laboratory experiments related to the focus of the lab – for more information on potential projects, please see our website at <https://straderlab.com/>. Ideal for candidate to have experience in molecular genetic techniques, such as DNA/RNA extractions and PCR, but can be trained. Day to day responsibilities will include water quality testing, maintenance of tanks and appropriate record keeping.

The Strader lab is committed to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment for EVERYONE. This entails personalized mentorship approaches, and regular discussion of literature associated with diversity, equity, and inclusion in STEM. We strive to promote the voices of historically underrepresented groups in ecology and evolution.

This is a full-time position and includes full benefits. To be considered for this position, please submit a CV, contact information for up to three references, and a cover letter outlining your fit with the position description and desired qualifications listed below to Dr. Strader (stradermarie@gmail.com).

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Laboratory technician (40%)

- Carry out routine laboratory protocol to progress projects in the lab. This will include nucleic acid extractions, PCR, cloning, sequencing library preparation
- Maintenance of microbial and algal cultures

Animal and aquarium management (40%)

- Carry out all routine duties required to enable aquaria to run to the highest possible standards. This will include feeding, animal health monitoring, filtration maintenance, and water chemistry analysis
- Conduct routine water quality tests using laboratory equipment and manipulate water chemistry parameters in appropriate ways.
- Animal husbandry, including all maintenance aspects required to successfully maintain temperate and tropical invertebrates
- Provide after-hours support on a rotational basis with other members of the lab

- Conduct occasional fieldwork to procure specimens and support lab research aims

Laboratory management (10%)

- Monitoring lab supplies and organization
- Maintaining and documenting lab cleanliness and safety standards
- Participate in professional development to learn basic molecular lab skills

Professional development: (5%)

- Develop skills and expertise by participating in laboratory meetings and undertake further training as required
- Build positive relationships with other local institutions in order to exchange information

Personnel management (5%)

- Supervising and training undergraduate students in animal husbandry and aquarium maintenance

PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge and experience

- Experience in maintaining tropical seawater aquaria
- Experience in a molecular genetics laboratory, including nucleic acid extractions, PCR troubleshooting, primer design, etc.
- Data analysis and interpretation skills
- Experience troubleshooting lab protocols
- Experience conducting routine water quality tests using laboratory equipment and to manipulate water chemistry parameters in appropriate ways
- Experience in monitoring animal health and behavior, identifying health problems and conducting treatments

Skills and abilities

- Outstanding observation skills and ability to pay attention to detail
- Good working knowledge of MS Office suite and familiarity with R/Rstudio
- A practical understanding and application of health and safety in the workplace
- The ability to work independently and with minimal supervision using a systematic, orderly, and responsible approach to routine duties, security, storage, and record keeping
- Able to carefully monitor equipment, anticipate, recognize, and resolve problems at an early stage and, where necessary, respond effectively under pressure
- Able to use hand tools to carry out aquarium maintenance
- Excellent teamwork and good interpersonal skills

Personal attributes

- Commitment to equality and diversity
- Willingness to work flexibly to achieve lab objectives