



The University of Manchester

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER**

**PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENT**

**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES**

**SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT, EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**RESEARCH TECHNICIAN**

**VACANCY REF: HUM-018097**

Salary:	Grade 4, £24,174 to £27,116 per annum, depending on relevant experience
Hours:	35 hours per week
Duration:	Fixed term available asap for 3 years
Location:	Oxford Road, Manchester

---

**Enquiries about the vacancy, shortlisting and interviews:**

Name: John Moore, Senior Technical Operations Manager

Email: [john.moore@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:john.moore@manchester.ac.uk)

---

**The School of Environment, Education and Development**

This represents one of the most innovative academic structures of The University of Manchester. It forges an interdisciplinary partnership combining Geography, Planning and Environmental Management, the Manchester School of Architecture, the Manchester Institute of Education, and the Global Development Institute (GDI), thus uniting research into social and environmental dimensions of human activity. The School has 330 academic and research staff, approximately 70 Professional Services staff, a little over 1000 undergraduate and almost 2,800 postgraduate students from over 85 countries [of whom approximately 250 are research students].

**Faculty of Humanities**

The Faculty of Humanities (<http://www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/>) is made up of four Schools: Environment, Education and Development; Social Sciences; Arts, Language and Cultures; and the Alliance Manchester Business School. It has 35 subject areas, a total income over £230m per annum, over 19,000 students and some 1200 academic and 600 professional support staff. REF 2014 results confirmed The Faculty and the University of Manchester as a genuine international powerhouse, with exceptional performances in a wide range of disciplines (<http://www.manchester.ac.uk/research/ref-2014>).

**The University**

The University of Manchester, formed in 2004 by bringing together The Victoria University of Manchester and UMIST, is Britain's first chartered university of the 21st century. The new institution is the largest single-site higher education institution in the country, offering students a greater choice of degree programmes and options, and even better facilities and support services.

Our purpose is to advance education, knowledge and wisdom for the good of society. Our vision is to be recognised globally for the excellence of our people, research, learning and innovation, and for the benefits we bring to society and the environment. You can read more here: [Our future: vision and strategic plan | The University of Manchester](#).

Manchester offers extensive provision for research. Library facilities include the John Rylands University Library and the Manchester Central Reference Library. The John Rylands library is the largest non-legal-deposit academic library in the United Kingdom, providing services and resources to students, researchers and academic staff as well as members of the public, schools and commercial companies. It holds the widest range of electronic resources of any UK Higher Education library. For further detail: [The University of Manchester Library \(The University of Manchester Library\)](#).

The University of Manchester is a member of the Russell Group of research-intensive universities and is placed consistently highly in both national and international surveys of university education. The university is ranked as a top 50 global institution, according to the Times Higher Education. The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2021 include more than 1,500 universities across 93 countries and regions, making them the largest and most diverse university rankings to date. The table is based on 13 carefully calibrated performance indicators that measure an institution's performance across four areas: teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook.

In April 2021 Manchester was named the world's number one university in the [Times Higher Education \(THE\) Impact Rankings](#), topping the table of more than 1,200 universities from around the world on action taken towards the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The UN's 17 SDGs are the world's call to action on the most pressing challenges and opportunities facing humanity and the natural world.

The University of Manchester maintained its position of 27 in the prestigious [QS World University Rankings](#) in June 2021 and moved up to 35 in the [Academic Ranking of World Universities \(ARWU\)](#) in August 2021.

General university information can be found on our website: [www.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.manchester.ac.uk).

### **The City and the Region**

Manchester is one of the great European cities and the University's main campus is within walking distance of the city centre. The city's architecture represents one of the high points of Victorian achievement. The modern city is a major centre of banking, commerce and technology and manufacturing, and hosts MediaCity UK, the country's most significant centre for creative and digital businesses. Manchester has a highly cosmopolitan atmosphere and its cultural life is internationally renowned. Within a fifteen minute walk of the campus there are three outstanding professional theatre companies, the halls of the Hallé and BBC Philharmonic orchestras, the HOME arts centre and other cinemas, and Europe's fastest-growing Chinatown. Amongst developments enriching the area's cultural life have been: the opening of the Lowry Centre at Salford Quays; the Bridgewater Concert Hall; Urbis in the centre of Manchester and the Imperial War Museum North, designed by Daniel Libeskind, in Trafford; and also the refurbishment of the City Art Gallery.

Manchester is renowned internationally for sport: it is a venue for Test cricket and the home of Manchester City FC and nearby Manchester United. There is an abundance of new sports facilities; the University is a stakeholder in the Commonwealth Pool – now known as the Manchester Aquatics Centre – which offers on campus, world-class swimming facilities. Housing is varied, plentiful and, by English standards, moderately priced. Schooling ranges from good quality state schools to excellent sixth-form colleges.

Manchester is well served by a major international airport, with direct scheduled flights to many destinations in Europe as well as North America and Asia. Manchester Piccadilly railway station has been refurbished and is served by inter-city and other train services – with a direct link to Manchester Airport. The expanding network of Metrolink tram services offers an alternative mode of public transport to access the city. Some of the most beautiful countryside in Europe is just over a thirty minute drive from the University, in the Peak District National Park, while the Lake District and Snowdonia are also within easy reach.

### **Environmental Sustainability**

SEED is committed to environmental sustainability and encourages all colleagues to sign up to the 10,000 Actions programme available to all staff. Along with the sustainability seminar series, this provides an introduction to sustainability issues and highlights a large variety of opportunities for sustainable actions that can be embedded within our work.

SEED academic and professional services staff have contributed to Green Impact teams since 2013. In 2019, SEED's Office Green Impact team were awarded Silver and the Geography Labs Green Impact team and the B15 Architecture Model-making workshop were both awarded Gold. More information about opportunities for staff to get involved can be found here:

<http://www.sustainability.manchester.ac.uk/get-involved/>

### **Equality and Diversity**

We have a genuine commitment to equality of opportunity for our staff and students. One of our guiding principles and values, as set out in Manchester 2020: The University of Manchester's Strategic Plan, affirms our commitment to being: "an accessible organisation, committed to advancing equality and diversity". Championing equality and diversity in all our activities, including staff employment and advancement, also forms part of our commitment to our strategic Goal Three: social responsibility.

Amongst many awards, the University has held an Athena SWAN Bronze Award since 2008 and was one of the first UK universities to be awarded a Race Equality Charter Mark. The School of Environment, Education and Development (SEED) was awarded Athena SWAN Bronze status in 2018. We are listed in Stonewall's list of Top 100 Employers for 2016 and have been awarded the Two Ticks symbol by Jobcentre Plus.

Ensuring that our School is inclusive as possible is a fundamental part of what we do in SEED. This effort is led by the Associate Director for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) who chairs two working groups (one for staff and one for students) dedicated to continually enhancing EDI within the School.

We welcome applications from people of all backgrounds – people of all ages, sexual orientations, genders, ethnicities, nationalities, religions, and beliefs. However, we particularly encourage applications from staff who identify as women, colleagues with disabilities, and

individuals from minority ethnic groups, because these groups are currently underrepresented in Higher Education.

[Application hints and tips | Jobs at The University of Manchester](#)

## JOB DESCRIPTION

The post of Research technician will support the GGR project and will be expected to:

- Support the installation of field equipment at the project sites
- Procure materials for the construction of monitoring sites
- Undertake basic construction of field equipment
- Assist with download data from field monitoring sites
- Undertake quality control of field data and support collation and safe storage of project data.
- Work with the project team to risk assess field activity
- Work effectively with staff in the project and with external partners
- Ensure a safe and clean environment within the Geography Laboratories. Undertaking daily safety checks of the facilities and equipment
- Be responsible for the practical implementation of safety policies, ensuring that users of the geography laboratories work within University and legislative guidelines.
- Stocktake chemicals and other consumables and ensure shortfalls are ordered in.
- Clean and maintain field and laboratory equipment.
- Receive, record and store field samples.
- Prepare and process a variety of field and laboratory samples and subsequent laboratory analysis
- Support laboratory practical classes for PGCE Secondary Science. Preparation of apparatus, chemicals. Liaising with colleagues from MIE in advance of practical classes to ensure that equipment, chemicals and consumables are ordered in advance of timetabled classes
- The post holder will receive training in order to achieve a level of competence to be able to operate the following analytical equipment:  
*Itrax Core Scanner*  
*ICPOES (Inductively Coupled Plasma Optical Emission Spectrometer)*  
*Ion Chromatograph*  
*XRF (X-ray Fluorescence)*  
*TOC (Total Organic Carbon Analyser)*  
*Laser Granulometer*
- Other duties within the scope of the post which may from time to time be required by the line manager.
- Act in a collegial manner.

## Person Specification

It is **essential** to show evidence of:

- A degree in a relevant field

- Ability to undertake fieldwork in upland environments. This may involve walking substantial distances, often on rough terrain, to transport field equipment and collect samples from remote sites.
- Experience of working in a laboratory environment
- Good organisational skills
- Good quantitative skills
- Experience of undertaking or supporting academic research
- Ability to organise the collation and storage of large datasets
- Practical ability to undertake support minor fabrication and installation of field equipment
- Proven analytical and problem-solving ability
- The ability to work flexibly, efficiently and to the high standards that are acceptable in a research environment.
- Excellent communication skills
- The ability to work well as part of the Geography Technical Team

It is **highly desirable** to show evidence of:

- An interest in moorland environments or hydrology
- Experience of working with carbon flux data
- Experience of using data loggers and handling the resulting data
- Experience of working in a laboratory.