



Lab technician – fermentation

Holiferm invites applications from inspired, innovative and team-oriented individuals for a full time technical role.

Holiferm is facilitating the transition of the \$36 billion surfactant market away from harmful, fossil fuel based chemicals to biobased alternatives. We produce sophorolipid biosurfactants, renewable, biodegradable and mild alternatives to the petrochemical derived surfactants used in household cleaning, laundry and personal care products.

By acquiring a wide range of funding and investments, we have built a fully equipped lab, pilot-plant and, more recently, started the build of a >1.1ktpa commercial demonstration plant. Before this position will start, Holiferm is expanding its focus beyond sophorolipids and developing processes to produce additional biosurfactants in collaboration with external market facing partners. This role will be key in enabling us to continue developing a wider range of biosurfactants and optimise processes.

We offer a competitive and flexible pay package and benefits such as flexible working to attract the best to join our team based in Manchester, UK. We understand people have different circumstances and want to ensure that the Holiferm family presents a supportive, inclusive and team-focused environment.

We are looking for people who believe in making a positive difference as we believe in change and want to make a meaningful impact towards a more sustainable chemistry sector. We believe collaboration between companies, disciplines and individuals are the best ways to develop the biosurfactant industry and our company. The successful applicant will have the opportunity to broaden their skillset by working with field leaders, within a dynamic and friendly working environment.

Key Responsibilities

The successful candidate will be responsible for supporting daily laboratory tasks and activities at the Holiferm laboratory in Manchester. This will include, but it is not limited to, running lab-scale fermentations, maintaining equipment, performing downstream processing and analytics. The technical role will involve working together with the process development and production teams to perform procedures and ensure proper documentation.

Candidate requirements

We are seeking highly motivated technicians who want to challenge themselves and others and fit well with our company philosophy, and first and foremost, get things done. The individual should have:

Essential:

- Experience of running daily laboratory operations such as:
 - preparing chemical solutions, e.g., fermentation media or stock solutions
 - using standard laboratory equipment, e.g., centrifuge or pH meter
 - Aseptic techniques for working with yeast and bacteria, e.g., of autoclave and microbial safety cabinets
- Proficient in laboratory documentation
- Able to follow protocol in an accurate and efficient manner
- Able to provide feedback and communicate across the different teams
- Collaborative and constructive attitude
- Strong time management and experimental planning skills
- Willing to work in a fast-paced and quickly changing environment
- Open to learning and optimising new methods
- Right to work in the UK

Preferred:

- Comfortable using analytical equipment such as HPLC
- Familiar with wet chemistry techniques, including working with organic solvents
- Experience in the field of biotechnology and fermentation-based manufacturing processes
- Good at practical problem solving skills, i.e., fixer of things
- Familiar with bioreactors and their operational protocol
- Experience in calibrating and maintaining fermentation and analytical equipment, for example pumps and pH probes
- Experience with working with biosurfactants, ranging from production, separation, characterisation and/or formulation

To apply or for more information, please send your CV and a covering letter to andrew.hardwick@holiferm.com.

