

Candidate Information

Position: Glassblowing Technician
School/Department: School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering
Reference: 25/112504
Closing Date: Monday 12 May 2025
Salary: £28,456 - £30,948 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date: Monday 26 May 2025
Duration: Permanent

JOB PURPOSE:

To support education and research by providing expert glassblowing services, maintaining workshop equipment, and assisting in the design and fabrication of custom glassware for the School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Fabricate, modify, and repair scientific glassware to meet specifications agreed with academic and technical staff.
2. Manufacture and repair glass apparatus using Boro-Silicate and Quartz glass to high standards.
3. Maintain and service workshop equipment, ensuring cleanliness, functionality, and safety within the glassblowing workshop.
4. Ensure the security of tools, equipment, and workshop areas, including safe management of gas supplies.
5. Monitor and manage stock levels, ensuring adequate materials and equipment availability to support ongoing work.
6. Provide expert advice to staff and students on the design, fabrication, and use of scientific glassware for research, teaching, and project work.
7. Create accurate technical drawings and guide the process from concept to finished apparatus.
8. Assemble and set up apparatus for teaching and research experiments, such as vacuum/Schlenk lines and cold traps.
9. Conduct equipment testing, including leak testing vacuum lines, pressure testing vessels, and checking gas supply regulators.
10. Adhere to health and safety regulations, including performing risk assessments and maintaining a safe working environment.
11. Perform other relevant duties as required, including occasional support in other areas.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Academic and/or vocational qualifications i.e. five GCSEs at Grade C or above (or equivalent) to include a science subject or NVQ Level 3 (or equivalent) in a relevant subject
2. 2 years relevant work experience in scientific glassblowing, to include:
 - Manufacture and repair of laboratory glassware.
 - Experience in bench work, hand burner and lathe work.
 - Cutting and grinding.
 - Manufacturing experience using Boro-Silicate and Quartz.
 - Maintenance of gas supply including cylinders and regulators.
3. Competent in the use of Information Technology and relevant software packages including MS Office.
4. Demonstrable ability to create accurate technical drawings and guide the process from concept to finished apparatus.
5. Good understanding of relevant regulations and procedures including Health and Safety requirements.
6. Good communication and interpersonal skills.
7. Ability to develop and demonstrate standard equipment and techniques.
8. Ability to plan own work schedule responding to new pressures and adjusting priorities.
9. Ability to provide guidance and advice to colleagues/students.
10. Ability to demonstrate working successfully as part of a team.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Certification in the following:
 - Safe use of gas cylinders.
 - Safe use of gas cylinder regulators.
 - Safe use of propane gas.
2. Experience in providing instruction to others in a learning environment.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Informal enquiries may be directed to Mr Ben Healey (b.healey@qub.ac.uk)