

Geoscience Technician



Alternate title Earth Science Technical Officer; Geological Technician; Geophysical Technician; Science Technical Officer; Technician (Geoscience)

Description Geoscience technicians assist earth scientists such as geologists, engineers and geophysicists to find and develop mineral and fuel resources, by making observations, collecting and analysing samples, recording information, and looking after the practical tasks involved in servicing a remote field operation.

Geoscience technicians are required to spend long periods working in remote locations throughout Australia.

- Typical duties**
- order, check, pack and ship equipment and supplies for field surveys;
 - manage small field camps and, in some cases, cook for very small groups;
 - mark outlines of ore, waste and drill hole patterns in operating mines;
 - collect, record and transport samples of rock, soil, drill cuttings and water;
 - undertake geophysical surveys, involving the measurement of such factors as magnetism and gravity, and using Global Positioning Systems technology (GPS) to establish deposit locations;
 - operate geophysical instruments to complete surveys which outline hidden rock features;
 - collate information collected from a range of sources such as geochemical sampling surveys, seismic surveys and meteorological observations, and carry out computer processing of the data;
 - use digital technology to produce geological and geophysical maps and sections;
 - supervise others doing these tasks.

- Personal requirements**
- enjoy scientific activities;
 - able to prepare accurate records and reports;
 - able to work as part of a team;
 - interested in rocks, fossils and minerals;
 - physically fit;
 - willing to work in remote locations.



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- Entry pathway** To become a Geoscience Technician you usually have to complete a diploma in geoscience or engineering and mine surveying. Entry to the diploma courses usually requires Year 11 with English and mathematics. Applicants may also be required to attend an interview. As subjects can vary between institutions, you should contact your chosen institution for full details.
- Qualification**
- Diploma of Surveying (Mining and Engineering) – available only in WA
 - Diploma of Geoscience - available only in SA
- Job prospects** Geoscience technicians work for mining and exploration firms, government agencies and geology departments of universities. Some competition from recent geology university graduates can be expected, as many start their careers as technicians.
- Geoscience technicians may specialise in either laboratory or field work. Many technicians work on a subcontracted basis in mineral and petroleum exploration. Some are self-employed in small geological contracting companies.
- This is a small occupation and job opportunities depend largely on the level of activity in the mining industry and staff turnover.
- Specialisation** Geoscience technicians may specialise in a number of different areas such as aerial sampling and exploration, seismic observation and well logging.
- Further information**
- Spatial Sciences Institute (Head Office) [www.spatialsciences.org.au/]
 - Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy [www.ausimm.com.au/]
 - Australian Institute of Geoscientists [www.aig.asn.au/]
 - Geological Society of Australia [www.gsa.org.au/]
 - Minerals Council of Australia [www.minerals.org.au/careers]