FORENSIC DNA SCIENTIST

Salary range: KYD$80,889 to KYD$97,259 per annum

The Cayman Islands Forensic Science Laboratory is an internationally accredited multi-disciplinary Forensic Science Laboratory within the Health Services Authority that provides forensic services to law enforcement, medical, and private entities, or individuals in support of criminal investigations and/or civil matters (Relationship/Paternity). The DNA Analysis Service provides specialized biological examinations and human genetic identity testing.

Primary Responsibilities: The postholder performs Forensic Biology Examinations, DNA Profile interpretation, report writing and court testimony, as required, in compliance with the ISO 17025 quality assurance program (QAPISO). The includes planning, preparing reagents and performing examinations, sampling, consumables, and preparation of all submitted items for DNA Analysis. Also calibrating and maintaining equipment for analysis, quality control checks, supplies; and prepare Known Samples for DNA Analysis.

Related Competencies include:

- Performing all forensic biology testing methods, including external proficiency tests, following the QAPISO DNA Methods Manual, on evidentiary items and to form sound conclusions in keeping with QAPISO policy.
  Evaluating, interpreting, and comparing DNA Profiles, in keeping with the DNA Methods Manual, for database, forensic and relationship testing purposes, and to perform and explain the statistical calculations associated with DNA Profile comparison.
- Handling all evidentiary items in keeping with QAPISO policy to ensure their preservation, integrity, tracking, and chain of custody.
- Extensive knowledge of current, accepted test and analytical methods used in the field of forensic DNA Analysis and familiarity with the Quality Assurance measures in place for DNA Analysis under QAPISO.
- Performing technical review of DNA Analysis work performed by others and providing supervision and training to trainees based on their training requirements. This includes training to external agencies, such as the police, with respect to evidence collection, DNA evidence value, etc., at their request.
- Writing reports in compliance with the policies and guidelines of QAPISO for presentation in court, providing clear objective testimony including explaining the methods and policies of QAPISO in terms that can be understood by a jury, as applicable.
- Sound knowledge of good laboratory practice and contamination prevention under QAPISO, including health and safety policies relevant to forensic laboratory reagents and equipment, and the ability to follow such policies.

Qualifications and Experience: The successful candidate must possess a Bachelor's Degree or an advanced degree in Biology, Chemistry or Forensic Science related area and shall have successfully completed course work (graduate or undergraduate level) covering the following subject areas: ***biochemistry, genetics, molecular biology, statistics and/or population genetics***. The specific subject areas listed must be an integral component of any coursework and total nine cumulative semester hours or equivalent that cover the required subject areas to meet these requirements; for course work with titles other than those listed above, must demonstrate compliance through a combination of pertinent materials, such as a transcript, syllabus, letter from the instructor, or other document that supports the course content and such documentation must be approved by the DNA Technical Leader. Must meet the education and experience requirements as set forth in the FBI's Quality Assurance Standards for Forensic DNA Testing Laboratories or the equivalent international standard.

Post holder must have a minimum of one (1) year of experience and completion of a documented training program in an ISO 17025-accredited forensic DNA laboratory in the role of qualified DNA Analyst. Must have experience testifying in court on the results of Forensic DNA Analysis and have documented training and experience in DNA profile interpretation, probabilistic genotyping and related specialized software and advanced statistical methods for forensic and relationship applications. Quality Assurance experience and training, particularly with respect to ISO17025 and the FBI QAS is desirable. Previous training and experience as a CODIS User is desirable. Must have excellent report writing skills and the ability to communicate in English clearly both orally and in writing.

A remuneration and benefits package, commensurate with experience and qualifications will be offered to the successful candidate.

NOTE: Incomplete applications will not be considered. All applicants must complete and submit a HSA Application Form, and resume via e-mail to hsa.jobs@hsa.ky using pdf format. Log on to our website at www.hsa.ky to access Application Form and Job Description.

COVID-19 vaccine is required for employment at the HSA.

Deadline for Forensic positions: October 17, 2021