

Jennifer Wright

Current Position

After graduating from SMU in 2019, Jennifer took on a short-term contract position as a Laboratory Technician at PEI Analytical Laboratories (PEIAL) in Charlottetown, PEI. Since then, Jennifer has moved to the position of Soil and Feed Lab Technologist at PEIAL. PEIAL performs chemical and microbiological analysis services on various agricultural samples. In her day-to-day work, Jennifer usually works with soil samples, testing the pH, extracting minerals for quantification, and weighing samples for organic matter. These metrics help farmers determine the profile of available nutrients in the soil and the suitability for the crops they grow, which helps guide decisions about appropriate amounts and types of fertilizers to use.

Favorite Aspects and Challenges

The fast-paced work environment is Jennifer's favorite aspect of the job. She finds the productivity of her day-to-day activities rewarding and enjoys that the job always keeps her busy. However, this sometimes also presents a challenge! Jennifer finds some days can become overwhelming, like when they receive over 700 samples in just two days!

Succeeding in the Lab

Jennifer believes that in order to work in this fast-paced environment and overcome on stressful days, you need to be versatile, flexible, and organized. Running various analyses on samples requires you to not only be adept at many skills, but also to multitask to ensure each sample gets processed efficiently. Since the workload of each day depends on the number and types of samples received, you need to be adaptable and able to prioritize and organize your workflow on the fly.

Advice for Entering the Job Market

According to Jennifer, patience and persistence are key when looking for a job after a bachelor's degree. Be prepared to apply for many positions, as you may only hear back from a few. And don't lose hope if you don't hear back quickly; sometimes it can take weeks or months! She also believes you need to keep an open mind about positions while job hunting. The job may not be exactly what you are looking for, but it might turn out to be something you enjoy or open doors for you to move into a better or more permanent position.



Jennifer Wright, BSc

Laboratory Technologist

PEI Analytical Laboratories

Education

Jennifer completed her Bachelor of Science in Chemistry in 2019 at Saint Mary's University in Halifax. There, she gained over two years of research experience in inorganic chemistry with the Masuda Research Group.



Written by Jennifer Kolwich,
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