

Candidate Information

Position:	Research Assistant, School of Biological Sciences
School/Department:	School of Biological Sciences
Reference:	19/107589
Closing Date:	Monday 1 July 2019
Salary:	£27,831 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date:	Tuesday 9 July 2019
Duration:	Available for 41 months or until 31 December 2022

JOB PURPOSE:

A unique and exciting opportunity in an inter-regional setting; we are seeking a candidate to work on a multi-species marine telemetry and biologging project combining studies on flapper skate and basking shark around Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland. As part of this ambitious project the Research Assistant within this team will help establish a series of small marine acoustic telemetry arrays and take a leading role in delivering a number of telemetry/biologging studies on both basking shark and flapper skate.

The post holder will also be required to provide specialist advice on issues to the Project Board and other partners as appropriate.

This post is full time for 41 months or until 31 December 2022 (whichever is sooner).

The successful candidate may be based at either our Belfast or Portaferry School sites.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Ensure high standards are maintained in the quality of work produced and in the efficient operation of equipment to meet SeaMonitor project deliverables.
2. Consult with academic and research staff regarding planning and development of field work and provide assistance to them in the development, construction and deployment of equipment.
3. Provide specialist technical advice and training to staff (and research students) in the relevant techniques, drawing upon considerable depth of knowledge, skills, experience and expertise.
4. Prepare materials and set up equipment for complex experiments based on specialist technical knowledge and expertise.
5. Assist with sourcing and procurement of equipment.
6. Contribute to and make recommendations on the development of new or improved methods/techniques.
7. Carry out analysis of biologging (e.g. accelerometer, HD footage) and telemetry (satellite and acoustic) data.
8. Management of biologging and acoustic data.
9. Diagnose and rectify faults and problems with equipment and procedures.
10. Engage with key stakeholders and general public to promote basking shark and flapper skate conservation, and highlight the work of the SeaMonitor project.
11. Maintain records and oversee budget accounting of materials, stocks and equipment to monitor and control finances.
12. Carry out any other duties which are appropriate to the post as may be reasonably be requested by Supervisor.
13. Monitor and maintain a safe working environment in accordance with Health and Safety procedures.

Planning and Organising:

1. Plans own day-to-day activity within the framework of the agreed research programme.

Resource Management Responsibilities:

1. Oversee the use and maintenance of expensive and complex machinery.
2. Take delegated responsibility for budgets/resources by following established procedures.
3. On the job training of students and staff in use of equipment and techniques in own area of expertise.

Internal and External Relationships:

1. Daily contact with Supervisor, work colleagues, University staff and students.
2. Regular liaison with external contacts.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Degree in a relevant subject area.
2. UK, ROI (or broader EU) animal handling qualifications for aquatic species.
3. At least 1 year recent & relevant experience working with marine migratory species including field work and processing of geospatial / animal movement data (e.g. satellite telemetry, biologging).
4. Knowledge of contemporary analytical packages (i.e. 'R').
5. Experience of financial and project management.
6. Well-developed understanding of relevant regulations and procedures including Health and Safety and Animal Welfare requirements.
7. Experience in public outreach and broad dissemination of research using traditional and social media.
8. Excellent oral and written communication skills.
9. Ability to work independently and on own initiative.
10. Ability to act decisively and confidently.
11. Willing to travel to meet the needs of the post.
12. Access to transport or ability to meet mobility requirements for the post.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Hold or about to obtain a post-graduate qualification or higher in a relevant subject area.
2. ENG1 Medical certification.
3. Sea Survival STCW certified.
4. Powerboat level 2.
5. Experience using appropriate analysis biologging & telemetry software and programming platforms e.g. IGOR Pro, Wildlife Computers GPE3.
6. Experience of working on large marine vertebrate related projects.
7. Publication record commensurate with experience and stage of career.
8. Evidence of giving formal presentations to multi-disciplinary audience international conferences/local management bodies.