

## Candidate Information

<b>Position:</b>	Research Fellow
<b>School/Department:</b>	School of Biological Sciences
<b>Reference:</b>	24/111992
<b>Closing Date:</b>	Monday 8 July 2024
<b>Salary:</b>	£37,841 per annum
<b>Anticipated Interview Date:</b>	Thursday 18 July 2024
<b>Duration:</b>	Available for 21 months, or until 31 March 2026, whichever is soonest.

### JOB PURPOSE:

We are seeking a Research Fellow on the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)-funded project: "Integrating Finance and Biodiversity" (infinbio.org), focusing on the component lead by QUB on "Financing Green Sector Transitions". The post is fixed-term for 21 months.

There is an estimated US\$880 billion gap in conservation and environmental mitigation funding globally. Government, philanthropy and conservation charities cover US\$120 billion/year yet biodiversity continues to decline. Mobilising private investment, which is presently small, is necessary to plug the massive shortfall. One of the main obstacles to incorporating biodiversity into the private sector is the lack of financial value attributed to biodiversity and biodiversity assets.

This biodiversity focused Research Fellow will work collaboratively with two other Research Fellows (one in finance, the other in economics) to assess the evidence necessary to incentivise private investors in funding Nature-based Solutions (NbSs), with a focus on measurable biodiversity outcomes.

Together, the Research Fellows will analyse linkages and drivers within the Finance-Biodiversity Nexus to assess opportunities and impediments to progress including developing suitable biodiversity metrics; the role and function of Environmental Impact Assessments, the role and function of NBSs; the evaluation and quantification of wider societal benefits; identifying additionality; the immaturity of NbSs; marketability within the financial sector; and offsetting unintended or perverse outcomes and consequences such as divesting/offshoring and non-equivalence offsetting.

This project is a collaboration with a wide range of academic partners including, Newcastle, Nottingham, York, and Queen Mary's London Universities.

### MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Carry out analyses and interpretation of data and the literature using methodologies and other techniques appropriate to the critical evaluation of evidence, for example, data collation, gathering case studies, database creation, meta-analysis, systematic review and quantitative statistical analyses addressing the funding gap in biodiversity conservation.
2. Undertake research, under supervision, on a specific research project and as a member of a collaborative research team.
3. Produce high quality research outputs consistent with the project aims and commensurate with stage of career. This will include collaborating and co-authoring with the PI and project team on outputs.
4. In consultation with the project team, promote research milestones and outputs at national/international conferences/events and through social media (where applicable).
5. Assist grant holder in the preparation of funding proposals and applications to external bodies.
6. Carry out routine administrative tasks associated with the research project/s to ensure that project/s are completed on time and within budget. These might include organisation of project meetings and documentation, financial control, risk assessment of research activities.

7. Carry out occasional educational supervision, demonstrating or lecturing duties within the post holder's area of expertise and under the direct guidance of a member of academic staff.
8. Undertake supplementary duties relevant to the success of the project including administrative duties and additional training and development activities as required.

**ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:**

1. Have, or be about to obtain\*, a PhD in Biodiversity, Conservation Biology, Ecology, Environmental Science, Environmental or Agricultural Economics or related subject area (\*must be obtained within 3 months of commencement of employment).
2. Substantial relevant research experience in the area of biodiversity and/or conservation or agri-environment academia, practice or policy.
3. A proven track record of critical evaluation of evidence, for example, data collation, gathering case studies, database creation, meta-analysis, systematic review, quantitative statistical analyses.
4. Ability to contribute to broader management and administrative processes.
5. Contribute to the School's outreach programme by links with industry, community groups etc.
6. Sufficient breadth and depth of specialist knowledge in the discipline and of research methods and techniques to work within established research programmes.
7. Highly organised with ability to work on a wide range of tasks and activities.
8. Ability to communicate complex information clearly.
9. Ability to build contacts and participate in internal and external networks.
10. Working effectively as part of a research team.
11. Demonstrable intellectual ability.
12. Ability to assess and organise resources.
13. Willingness to work across disciplines and sectors e.g. biodiverse/conservation; agri-environment; rural land-use; finance; economics.

**DESIRABLE CRITERIA:**

1. Postgraduate degree, for example, MSc, MSci, MRes or equivalent in biodiversity, conservation, environmental or agricultural economics or related subject area.
2. Additional experience of research in the wider environment e.g. climate change, environmental impact; agriculture and food production systems including life cycle analysis etc.; finance and/or economics.
3. A background in, and clear demonstration of an understanding of, basic biological and ecological concepts; an understanding of the drivers of the global biodiversity crisis.
4. Evidence of skills in data extraction, collation and handling including coding skills to scrape data from publications and online resources, large language models, and/or the use of Artificial Intelligence (GPTs) and/or machine learning to gather and quantify evidence from text.
5. Demonstrable experience of quantitative statistical analyses using e.g. R or qualitative discourse analysis.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Informal inquiries may be directed to George Hutchinson ([g.hutchinson@qub.ac.uk](mailto:g.hutchinson@qub.ac.uk)).