

Research Assistant

Stuck in the mud: addressing the fine sediment conundrum with multiscale and interdisciplinary approaches to support global freshwater biodiversity (Part-Time)

REQ221714

As part of the University's ongoing commitment to redeployment, please note that this vacancy may be withdrawn at any stage of the recruitment process if a suitable redeployee is identified.

Geography Department

Project Description

A part-time research assistant is needed for a UKRI FLF funded project on the ecological implications of fine sediment, led by Dr Kate Mathers. Fine sediment (typically defined as particles <2mm) deposition in riverine ecosystems represents a critical anthropogenic threat to global freshwater diversity. Despite the extent and magnitude of this threat we lack fundamental knowledge about the mechanisms controlling the ecological effects of fine sediment; vital knowledge needed to underpin the implementation of effective global river management strategies. The overall objective of the project is to identify, examine and quantify the primary abiotic and biotic controls influencing the ecosystem effects of instream sedimentation.

The researcher's main responsibilities will be to process ecological and sedimentological samples in the laboratory that constitute two completed fieldwork campaigns and to input data into computer spreadsheets (excel).

Job Description

Job Grade: Specialist and Supporting Academic Grade 5

Job Purpose

To assist the PI with laboratory processing of ecological and sedimentological samples

Job Duties

- To undertake macroinvertebrate sample processing in the laboratory including picking of invertebrates from the samples and subsequent identification
- To conduct sediment processing of samples in the laboratory to potentially include grain size analysis and Loss on Ignition processes
- To assist with administrative tasks
- To input data into excel once processed in the laboratory
- Attendance and input at regular internal meetings

- Report to, and share progress with, the Loughborough Investigator
- Engage with various stages of data analysis
- Assist in the development of materials for knowledge transfer and networking
- To engage in training programmes in the University (e.g., through Professional Development) which are consistent with your needs and aspirations and those of the School)
- To undertake such duties as may be reasonably requested and that are commensurate with the nature and grade of the post.

Points To Note

The purpose of this job description is to indicate the general level of duties and responsibility of the post. The detailed duties may vary from time to time without changing the general character or level of responsibility entailed.

Special Conditions

All staff have a statutory responsibility to take reasonable care of themselves, others and the environment and to prevent harm by their acts or omissions. All staff are therefore required to adhere to the University's Health, Safety and Environmental Policy & Procedures.

All staff should hold a duty and commitment to observing the University's Equality & Diversity policy and procedures at all times. Duties must be carried out in accordance with relevant Equality & Diversity legislation and University policies/procedures.

Successful completion of probation will be dependent on attendance at the University's mandatory courses which include Respecting Diversity and, where appropriate, Recruitment and Selection.

Organisational Responsibility

Dr Kate Mathers, UKRI Fellow

Person Specification

Your application will be reviewed with respect to meeting the essential and desirable criteria listed below. Applicants are strongly advised to explicitly state and evidence how they meet each of the essential (and desirable) criteria in their application. Stages of assessment are as follows:

- 1 – Application
- 3 – Interview

Essential Criteria

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Experience of working with freshwater organisms, in particular macroinvertebrates.	1,3
	Experience of working in laboratories	1,3
Skills and abilities	Excellent written and oral communication skills	1,3
	Self-motivated with ability to meet deadlines	1,3
	Excellent interpersonal, and organisational skills	1,3
	Ability to work independently <u>and</u> as part of a team and to collaborate with others	1,3
Qualifications	Masters or degree (or undertaking) in Geography, Environmental Science, Ecology or discipline of relevance to the project	1
Other	Commitment to observing the University's Equality and Diversity policy at all times.	1

Desirable Criteria

Area	Criteria	Stage
Experience	Knowledge of river science literature	1,3
Skills and abilities	Excellent IT skills	1

Conditions of Service

The position is part-time and fixed term for 12 months. Salary will be on Specialist and Supporting Academic Grade 5 (£26,396 - £31,411) at a starting salary to be confirmed on offer of appointment.

The appointment will be subject to the University's normal Terms and Conditions of Employment for Academic and Related staff/Operational and Administrative staff, details of which can be found [here](#).

The University is committed to enabling staff to maintain a healthy work-home balance and has a number of family-friendly policies which are available at <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/hr/a-z/family-leave-policy-and-procedure---page.html>.

We also offer an on-campus nursery with subsidised places, subsidised places at local holiday clubs and a childcare voucher scheme (further details are available at: <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/hr/a-z/childcare-information---page.html>)

In addition, the University is supportive, wherever possible, of flexible working arrangements.

We also strive to create a culture that supports equality and celebrates diversity throughout the campus. The University holds a Bronze Athena SWAN award which recognises the importance of support for women at all stages of their academic career. For further information on Athena SWAN see <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/hr/athena-swan/>