

Job Description

Post Title and Post Number	ERC Research Fellow - 55212
Organisation Advertising Description	School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences College of Life and Environmental Sciences
Post Number	55212
Full Time/Part Time	Full Time
Number of hours / weeks to be worked	100%
Duration of post	3 years
Post is open to:	Internal and External Candidates
Grade	Grade 7
Salary	Starting salary is normally in the range £28,695 to £37,394. With potential progression once in post to £39,685 a year.
Terms and Conditions	Research & Analogous
Closing Date	23 rd September 2015

Job Summary

A postdoctoral research position in diversification patterns of fossil tetrapods is now available based within the research group of Dr Richard Butler, within the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences.

The successful applicant will be employed for three years to work as part of a European Research Council-funded team focused on testing the spatial and temporal patterns and abiotic and biotic drivers of the diversification of terrestrial tetrapods over the Phanerozoic. The researcher will play a key role in the development of spatially and temporally comprehensive datasets of fossil vertebrate taxonomy and occurrences. Utilising these and other existing data they will conduct quantitative meta-analyses to document major temporal and spatial patterns in species-richness over long geological timescales, and test relationships with potential drivers. The researcher will be expected to disseminate research results through outstanding publications in leading journals, conference presentations and outreach activities. Further duties will involve co-supervision of undergraduate student projects, and contributing to the training and mentoring of doctoral researchers and research assistants. Funding will be available for the researcher to undertake relevant training courses and attend both national and international conferences.

Main Responsibilities

- To undertake the collection and compilation of research data, including extracting information

on fossil vertebrate occurrences from published literature and incorporating it into databases such as the *Paleobiology Database*.

- To carry out quantitative analysis and interpretation of this data.
- To develop and programme custom and new methods for analysing fossil diversity data.
- Contribute to developing new models, techniques and methods
- To work in collaboration on this research with other members of the research group, and with external partners both nationally and internationally
- To disseminate research results using appropriate academic routes, including publications in leading journals, presentation at national and international research conferences, internal and external research seminars, and workshops.
- To contribute to dissemination of research results more broadly to non-academic audiences, through, for example, occasional media interviews, public talks, and public engagement activities.
- To co-supervise undergraduate research projects linked to research project.
- Contribute to enterprise, business development and/or public engagement activities of manifest benefit to the College and the University, often under supervision of a project leader
- To support the principal investigator in the training and mentoring of doctoral researchers and research assistants linked to the research project.
- To contribute where appropriate to the management and administration of the research project – e.g. in preparing reports on research activities.
- To deal with problems that may affect the achievement of research objectives and deadlines.

Scope of the Role

- To undertake the collection, analysis and interpretation of research data within the scope of the specified research project.
- To publish results of this research project in leading journals and disseminate results at conferences and workshops and to the public.
- To contribute to supervision, training and mentoring of undergraduate students, doctoral researchers, and research assistants working within the specified research project.

Skills and Experience

Essential

- First degree in a relevant area such as Geology, Zoology, Ecology or Palaeontology **and** a PhD in Palaeontology or Evolutionary Biology or other relevant field
- Excellent quantitative and analytical skills, including demonstrable experience of using and programming in the statistical language R
- Track record of high-quality scientific publications
- Demonstrable experience in disseminating research results via conference presentations
- Ability to communicate complex information clearly
- Ability to assess resource requirements and use resources effectively
- Understanding of and ability to contribute to broader management/administration processes

Desirable

- Understanding of and ability to interpret and work with published stratigraphic and taxonomic information
- Previous experience working with fossil vertebrates and/or deep time diversity patterns
- Demonstrable experience in disseminating research results to the public through public engagement and media activities
- Experience in supervising or co-supervising research work by undergraduate and/or graduate students

Planning and Organising

- Contribute to the planning and organising of the research project
- Co-ordinate own work with others to avoid conflict or duplication of effort

Decision Making

- Decide in consultation with principal investigator on the most appropriate way of undertaking the specified research activities
- Decide in consultation with the principal investigator and external collaborators as appropriate how to analyse and interpret the data from the specified research activities
- Decide in collaboration with co-authors which aspects of the research findings to include in a presentation or a publication and how to convey the findings
- Give guidance, support and advice to students on research related work including PhD students and decide the most appropriate method of providing this supervision.

Internal/External Relationships

- Liaise with University of Birmingham research staff and support staff on research-related matters
- Liaise with external collaborators on the research, where appropriate
- Give presentations and/or contribute to presentations at national and/or international conferences
- Liaise with the relevant external research community via seminars and conferences
- Participate in internal networks for the exchange of information and to form relationships for future collaboration
- Present research results to members of the public via public engagement activities