

Job Description

Post Title and Post Number	Research Fellow - 55233
Organisation Advertising Description	School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences College of Life and Environmental Sciences
Post Number	55233
Full Time/Part Time	Full Time
Number of hours / weeks to be worked	100%
Duration of post	1 year
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	24 August 2015

Job Summary

A postdoctoral research position in the palaeogeography of Permian to Jurassic fossil vertebrates is now available based within the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences.

The successful applicant will be employed for one year to work with Dr Richard Butler and Dr Martín Ezcurra, as well as external collaborators, as part of a Marie Curie funded research project examining faunal change on land in the crucial transition from the late Palaeozoic to the early Mesozoic. Specifically, the researcher will utilise a range of approaches to document and quantify the palaeobiogeographical patterns of terrestrial tetrapods such as archosaurs, parareptiles and synapsids through this interval, and test potential explanatory mechanisms, such as climate variation and continental fragmentation. The researcher will be expected to disseminate research results through one or more outstanding publications in leading journals, and through outreach activities. Funding will potentially be available to the researcher to cover research costs, such as relevant training courses and research and conference-related travel.

Main Responsibilities

- Develop research objectives and proposals for own or joint research, with assistance of a mentor if required
- To undertake the collection and compilation of research data, including compilation of information on the distribution and taxonomy of Permian to Jurassic terrestrial fossil vertebrates.

- To carry out quantitative analysis and interpretation of this data using a broad range of different methodologies and software packages.
- 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 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, public talks, and public engagement activities.
- Contribute to writing bids for research funding
- Analyse and interpret data
- Disseminate research findings for publication, research seminars etc
- Supervise students on research related work and provide guidance to PhD students where appropriate to the discipline
- Present research outputs, including drafting academic publications or parts thereof, for example at seminars and as posters
- 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.

Skills and Experience

Essential

- First degree in a relevant area such as Geology, Zoology, or Palaeontology **and** a PhD in Palaeontology or other relevant field
- Excellent quantitative and analytical skills
- Track record of high-quality scientific publications
- Understanding of and ability to interpret and work with published stratigraphic and taxonomic information
- Ability to communicate complex information clearly
- Fluency in relevant models, techniques or methods and ability to contribute to developing new ones
- Ability to assess resource requirements and use resources effectively

Desirable

- Experience in disseminating research results via conference presentations
- Previous experience working with fossil vertebrates and/or palaeobiogeography
- Experience of using relevant software packages such as R, RASP, TNT etc.

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
- Present research results to members of the public via public engagement activities