

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title:	Post-doctoral Research Fellow in Squirrel-tick Ecology, Society and Environment	Grade:	AC2
Department:	FES/NRI/AHED	Date of Job Evaluation:	
Role reports to:	Associate Professor of Chemical Ecology	SOC Code	
Direct Reports	None		
This role profile is non-contractual and provided for guidance. It will be updated and amended from time to time in accordance with the changing needs of the University and the requirements of the job.			

PURPOSE OF ROLE: To carry out research in support of the BBSRC-funded project “One Health approach to tick-borne disease control through manipulation of reservoir host communities at landscape scale.

The post-holder’s responsibilities will be to carry out biological and sociological field work to explore the impacts of conventional culling and fertility control on populations of grey squirrels and ticks and Lyme disease transmission. Tasks will include:

1. Identifying field sites planning to carry out squirrel culling and fertility control through contact and collaboration with local stakeholders and community groups.
2. Use of camera traps to survey squirrel and other wildlife abundance.
3. Conducting baseline surveys of squirrel abundance, tick loads and Lyme’s disease prevalence in squirrels/ticks in different woodland habitats through collection of ticks and squirrel samples.
4. Surveillance of squirrel management through culling and use of fertility control on abundance/prevalence of squirrels, ticks, and Lyme disease.
5. Assist in organising and delivery of focus group discussions, questionnaires, and public communication events to gather information from different community groups on stakeholder attitudes and practices.
6. Work closely with partners based at Forest Research (Northern Research Station, Roslin) and University of York as well as partners at University of Salford and the Animal and Plant Health Agency

The post-holder will be expected to conduct extensive field work in Cumbria where Lyme disease is prevalent. The post-holder may choose to live in Cumbria or near the University of York using their office facilities. The post holder will also be expected to occasionally visit offices of Forest Research (Northern Research Station, Roslin) and visiting NRI as needed.

Candidates must have a good fundamental background in ecology and experience in biological field work. Knowledge and experience in the social sciences will also be advantageous.

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES:

Team Specific:

- Identify sites planning to employ culling and fertility control of grey squirrels.
- In discussion with local stakeholders, coordinate timing of grey squirrel culling and fertility control operations in nearby locations, enabling baseline surveys to be conducted before management operations commence.
- Collect ectoparasites and blood samples from culled squirrels for molecular identification of pathogens.
- Apply camera traps to assess grey squirrel populations.
- Test chemical-ecology based tools for tick control.

Generic:

- Represent the University at project meetings with partners.
- Take part in Faculty activities as required.
- Take part in public engagement activities as appropriate.

Managing Self:

- Maintain a professional presentation of self always through effective communication skills, good time management and respectful attitude to project colleagues and students.
- Work effectively and manage needs and priorities to deliver to targets and deadlines.
- Be able to work as part of a team and independently.
- Keep up with new relevant developments in the scientific literature.
- Communicate research progress to members of the project team.

Core Requirements:

- Adhere to and promote the University's policies on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and Information Security;
- Ensure compliance with Health & Safety and Data Protection Legislation;
- Support and promote the university's Sustainability policies, including the Carbon Management Plan, and carry out duties in a resource efficient way, recognising the shared responsibility of minimising the university's negative environmental impacts wherever possible
- Adhere to current legal requirements and best practice relating to digital content and accessibility, including Web Content Accessibility Guidelines when creating digital content.

Additional Requirements:

Undertake any other duties as requested by the line manager or appropriate senior manager, commensurate with the grade.

This is a professional, demanding role within a complex organisation with an ambitious strategic plan and agenda for change. The role holder will be expected to show flexibility in working arrangements, including working hours, to ensure that FES delivers the required level of service.

Travel to attend partner meetings and conferences and conduct research away from Medway Campus as required.

Membership of the University of Greenwich Early Career Research Initiative (as required).

Undertake such other duties as may reasonably be required.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

- Meeting project milestones as set out in grant application and project plan.
- Ongoing familiarity with new developments in the relevant literature
- Contribution to research outputs and publications as required.

KEY RELATIONSHIPS (Internal & External):

- Maintain excellent relationships with NRI, colleagues, administrative and management staff.
- Work alongside external project team and stakeholders to deliver project objectives.

PERSON SPECIFICATION	
Essential	Desirable
<p>Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience in conducting research in ecology. • Experience in conducting extensive field work. • Experience of working within a multi-disciplinary team environment. 	<p>Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience in small mammal ecology. • Experience in ticks and tick-borne diseases. • Experience in chemical ecology

<p>Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent oral and written communication skills, as demonstrated in published theses, manuscripts, and conference presentations. • IT skills in standard Microsoft packages and use of packages for capture and processing of analytical data (e.g. R) • Able to communicate with stakeholders and members of the public. • Designing and executing properly replicated field experiments. <p>Qualifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undergraduate degree in Biology or similar subject. • PhD in Ecology (or equivalent) or working towards completion. <p>Personal attributes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are looking for people who can help us deliver the values of the University of Greenwich: Inclusive, Collaborative and Impactful 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience in social anthropology, social science, and community engagement. <p>Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience in collecting and analysing sociological data. • Experience in identifying ectoparasites through molecular or traditional methods. • Experience in small mammal handling, trapping and use of camera traps. <p>Qualifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A <p>Personal attributes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A <p>Additional Requirement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to drive and travel within the UK.
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