

## **Job Description**

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|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Role Title:</b>        | Research Assistant                  |
| <b>Faculty:</b>           | Science Engineering and Environment |
| <b>Reference:</b>         | MPF4233                             |
| <b>Grade:</b>             | Grade 6                             |
| <b>Full or Part time:</b> | Full time                           |
| <b>Hours:</b>             | 1.0 FTE                             |
| <b>Reports to:</b>        | Principal Investigator (UoS)        |

## Overview

PLAN-B (the Path Towards Addressing Adverse Impacts Of Light And Noise Pollution On Terrestrial Biodiversity And Ecosystems) is an EC project involving 11 project partners from across Europe, collaborators in Brazil and a large network of international stakeholders. Within this project, the University of Salford is leading a Work Package focused on understanding the mechanisms of light and noise pollution impact on terrestrial biodiversity and ecosystem services.

A database of light and noise pollution impacts on terrestrial biodiversity and ecosystem services has already been developed. The next phase of the research, which this Research Assistant role will support, involves studies of the mechanisms through which light and noise impacts terrestrial wildlife and the development of light and noise pollution exposure models and associated guidance for assessing impacts on terrestrial wildlife. The research will involve laboratory-based, field-based and computer-based activities. Some international travel is also anticipated, including attending project meetings.

## Role Purpose

To contribute to research on the impacts of light and noise pollution on wildlife and the development of assessment methods and guidance for use in environmental regulatory decision making.

## Principal Duties & Responsibilities

- To develop and manage the submission of ethics applications internally and externally.
- To work collaboratively and effectively with the Principal Investigator and wider project partners in supporting the delivery of the research project.
- To undertake structured literature searches screening, synthesis, and critical review activities related to light and noise pollution impacts on wildlife.
- To contribute to the development of the project methods to support both quantitative and qualitative data collection, including the use of computer vision methods for analysing organism activity in field and laboratory studies.
- To contribute to the collection, organisation management, and analysis of data generated through research activities.
- To assist in the planning, coordination and delivery of community and stakeholder engagement activities, including participant recruitment, workshop facilitation, and communication with external stakeholders.
- To assist in the development of assessment models and guidance documents to support regulatory decision-making for light and noise pollution impacts on wildlife.

- To contribute to the preparation of project reports, presentations, briefing materials, research papers, and other dissemination outputs suitable for academic and non-academic audiences.
- To maintain accurate research records and support data management processes in line with institutional and funder requirements.
- To undertake appropriate organisational, administrative, and project coordination activities connected to the delivery of the project.
- To perform any other duties as may be required from time to time by the project management team.
- To adhere to policies, principles, practices and processes that govern ethical research conduct.
- To engage with and participate in the University's PDR process as reviewer and/or reviewee, as appropriate.

### **Generic Duties**

- Perform any other duties appropriate to the grade as may be required by the Head of School/Head of Division etc.
- Comply with the personal health and safety responsibilities specified in the University Health and Safety policy.
- To engage with the University's commitment to put our students first and deliver services which are customer orientated, represent value for money and contribute to the financial and environmental sustainability of the University when undertaking all duties and aspects of the role.
- Advance equality, support our work towards eliminating unlawful discrimination, foster an inclusive study and work environment for students, staff and visitors in accordance with our public sector equality duties and university policy.

This role detail is a guide to the work you will initially be required to undertake. It may be changed from time to time to meet changing circumstances. It does not form part of your Contract of Employment.

Person specification follows on next page

## **Person Specification**

The successful candidate should demonstrate the following, which are 'Essential' (E) or 'Desirable' (D)

### **Qualifications**

1. A good undergraduate degree (1st or 2:1) in Ecology, Wildlife studies, Environmental Sciences, or a related field. **(E)**
2. A postgraduate qualification in Research, Ecology, Wildlife studies, Environmental Sciences, or related discipline. **(E)**

### **Background and Experience**

3. Knowledge and experience of undertaking quality research in an academic or consultancy environment. **(E)**
4. Knowledge and experience of developing computer vision techniques to support studies of pollution impact on wildlife. **(E)**
5. Previous experience of developing pollution impact assessment approaches and/or guidance to support regulatory decision-making. **(E)**
6. Experience of working with international partners to deliver research outcomes. **(D)**
7. Experience of designing and/or facilitating stakeholder workshops. **(D)**

### **Knowledge**

8. Understanding of methods to quantify the impacts of noise and/or light pollution on wildlife. **(E)**
9. Understanding of experimental design approaches for studying noise and/or light pollution impacts in field and/or laboratory settings. **(E)**
10. Knowledge of R, GIS, and the optimisation of computer vision techniques. **(D)**

### **Skills and Competencies**

11. Excellent communication skills with the ability to present information clearly to a range of audiences both written and verbally. **(E)**
12. Ability to use quantitative methods to collect, analyse and interpret data. **(E)**
13. Ability to write academic and non-academic outputs for a variety of audiences in a clear and accessible style. **(E)**
14. Ability to work in a team in an open, sharing manner. **(E)**
15. Ability to engage in independent working for periods at a time. **(E)**
16. Ability to be flexible with regard to research responsibilities; and working locations. **(E)**
17. Capability and willingness to undertake administrative tasks necessary for the effective management of the project. **(E)**

