

JOB DESCRIPTION

Vacancy reference:	SRF34035
Post Title:	Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Isotope Ecology/Archaeology on 'Feed the Birds...Do Not Feed the Animals'
Grade:	Grade 6, spine point 27-30
School/Department:	SAGES/Geography and Environmental Science
Reports to:	Dr Stuart Black
Responsible for:	N.A.

Purpose

- To deliver individual and collaborative research as part of the Wellcome-Trust-funded research project 'Feed the Birds...Do Not Feed the Animals', extending knowledge in the use of isotope analyses on wild and captive vertebrates from both modern and historical/archaeological archives.
- To develop new analytical approaches for the analysis of isotopes in animal tissues.

Main duties and responsibilities

- Isotope analyses of ecological and/or archaeological archives and to understand the nature of deriving high quality isotope data as part of the 'Feed the Birds...Do Not Feed the Animals' project.
- Undertake an innovative research programme in isotope analyses of animal tissues to extend knowledge of animal diets and lifestyles using materials from our partner organisations.
- Collect and analyse sample materials held by zoos, archives and museums.
- Contribute to the development of research methodologies and analytical approaches using isotopes.
- Write publications of international quality, in peer-reviewed publications as appropriate to the agreed research programme.
- Contribute to the academic dissemination of research findings, through peer-reviewed publications (including as lead author), presenting at conferences and other activities as required.
- Engage in the creation and delivery of public engagement, educational and outreach activities for specialist and non-specialist audiences to promote and disseminate 'Feed the Birds...Do Not Feed the Animals'.
- Engage in the development of applications for additional funding from the Wellcome Trust and other organisations to deliver a major public engagement programme and/or event.

- Be responsible for the management of data generated in line with the project and The University of Reading's objectives, policies and procedures,
- Engage in continuous professional development and to be responsible for continually updating their own knowledge and understanding of isotope analyses.
- Ensure intellectual rigour and adherence to ethical standards and legislative requirements in the research for which they are responsible.
- Commit to good health and safety practices and ensure familiarity with The University of Reading health and safety policies, procedures and guidelines.

Supervision received

The post holder will report directly to Dr Stuart Black and be part of the wider network of staff and PhD students on the 'Feed the Birds...Do Not Feed the Animals' project based at The University of Exeter, University of Roehampton and The National Museums of Scotland.

Supervision given

The post holder will help guide two PhD students together with Dr Stuart Black and it is expected that they will be a supervisor of at least one of these projects depending on background.

Contact

The post holder will be in regular contact with the PI Dr Stuart Black and the larger network of the project.

Terms and conditions

37 hours per week, 3 year fixed term contract. Some weekend working may be necessary to meet deadlines.

This document outlines the duties required for the time being of the post to indicate the level of responsibility. It is not a comprehensive or exhaustive list and the line manager may vary duties from time to time which do not change the general character of the job or the level of responsibility entailed.

Date assessed: 13/10/2020

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Job Title	School/Department
Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Isotope Ecology/Archaeology on 'Feed the Birds...Do Not Feed the Animals'	SAGES/Geography and Environmental Science

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Skills Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate evidence of being able to analyse materials for isotopes • Demonstrate a careful approach to undertaking scientific investigation and an understanding of quality assurance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driving licence
Attainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A PhD involving isotope analyses. • An undergraduate degree in an appropriate area (Archaeology, Ecology, Environmental Science, Earth Sciences etc.). • Knowledge of academic literature relating to the use of isotopes on animal tissues. 	
Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding and knowledge of research methodologies and dissemination of results. • Good working knowledge of isotope systems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hands on practical experience of running isotope ratio mass spectrometers.
Relevant Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proven relevant experience in using isotopes and/or geochemistry to address research questions. • Experience of planning and undertaking research projects • Record of publication in an area of specialism and / or public presentations to a variety of audiences. • Experience of working within a specialist subject area. • Experience of planning and coordinating projects and multiple tasks at varying levels, often self-directed. 	

Disposition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to proactively build relationships and collaborate actively with internal and external contacts nationally and internationally. • Excellent presentation and communication skills, e.g. preparing publications, lectures, social media and educational outreach. • ICT skills in Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook and databases • Ability to work independently or as part of a team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of isotope software (such as Isodat)
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake short-term placements at a series of national museums and historic properties (e.g. Powell-Cotton Museum, Museum of English Rural Life, Natural History Museum, and The National Museums of Scotland) to access research materials and samples. 	

Completed by: Dr Stuart Black	Date: 13/10/2020
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