**Senior PDRA in Physical Oceanography**

**Job Description**

**1. Job Details**

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| Job Title:  | Senior PDRA in Physical Oceanography | Job Family: | Science |
| Line Manager: | Senior PDRA Physical Oceanography | Grade: | 6 |
| Full Time/Part Time: | Full Time – 37 hrs per week | Duration of Appointment: | 3 years |

**2. Job Purpose**

To undertake high quality research in line with SAMS research strategy.

The postholder will contribute to three NERC-funded research programmes, using autonomous observational platforms and sophisticated physical analysis to investigate the dynamics and impacts of ocean circulation in the North Atlantic:

* ODISSEA - utilise hydrographic mooring, bottom pressure, glider, satellite, and tide gauge data to understand the causal relationships between climate-scale ocean circulation and coastal/shelf sea level around the UK and Ireland on a range of time scales.
* WISPA - develop techniques for using of drift-free bottom pressure sensors to observe climate-relevant ocean dynamics.
* OSNAP – observe and understand how AMOC variability impacts conditions at the eastern boundary subpolar North Atlantic.

**3. Main Responsibilities**

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| *Responsibility Areas* | *Approx. %**of time* |
| Conduct fundamental and collaborative research on the dynamics linking the deep ocean to the continental shelf, using a wide range of geophysical and oceanographic data and developing new theoretical frameworks. As part of the above, you will be responsible for aspects of research projects including objective setting, prioritisation, planning and completion of multiple activities to time and specification.You will also be expected to take an active role in developing your own research trajectory. | 40 |
| Disseminate findings by publishing results in high-impact journals, producing a combination of first author and named author publications. | 20 |
| Manage, plan and conduct fieldwork on research cruises to the eastern subpolar North Atlantic and gathering and processing data from both autonomous and conventional platforms. Spearhead the implementation of drift-free bottom pressure recorders for ocean/climate research. | 20 |
| Build and maintain national and international relationships and collaborations for research through presenting work to colleagues, partners as well as a range of networks at national and international level. | 10 |
| Identify sources of funding and contribute securing future income to support research/education and enterprise activities. | 10 |
| Be pro-active in the application of SAMS Health and Safety Procedures. | Ongoing |

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**4. Planning and Organising**

* Working with project team, plan own research activity areas, managing tasks to completion and time. Assist others with activities related to project areas.
* Prepare for and plan for deep sea cruise activities, taking into consideration travel and logistics.
* Plan for attendance at project meetings and conferences, presenting scientific work, where possible, and using such opportunities to develop networks.
* Plan writing up and submission of research outputs including publications.
* Mentor less experienced colleagues and support students, as required.

**5. Problem-Solving**

* Take responsibility for own area and work through problems/solutions independently.
* Provide support to immediate project research teams.
* Solve research questions using analytic and computational skills, and collaborations, both within and outside SAMS.
* Work with novel and complex datasets.
* Work with autonomous/robotic platforms and new sensors.
* Experience of planning and participating in local small boat prep and deep-sea cruises and experience of ensuring certification, planning, paperwork, equipment, logistics are in place for such field trips.
* Able to cope with the demands whilst at sea and able to think on feet, use experience to work through problems/issues to achieve project requirements.

**6. Decision-Making**

* Able to prioritise activities and make decisions within own area of work.
* Decide on the appropriate methods to collect data to answer research questions.
* Appraise possible new areas of research aligning to SAMS’s research priorities.

**7. Key Contacts/Relationships**

* Maintain and develop relationships with scientists and support staff in SAMS and within the UK and international oceanographic communities, developing opportunities for collaborative work.
* Work closely with ODISSEA researchers at NOC Liverpool and Florida State University, and project partners in NOC Southampton, Maynooth University, Marine Scotland, Marine Institute, and the UK Met Office.
* Attendance at conferences and community meetings, to present current work and to represent the institute and the work of colleagues to build networks and opportunities for collaborative work.
* Engagement with the coastal sea level research, North Atlantic circulation, and marine robotics communities, keeping at the forefront of current research and methods.

**8. Knowledge, Skills and Experience needed for the Job**

* PhD in physical oceanography
* Experience in using ship-based and/or autonomous ocean observing platforms, the data they generate and computing languages to analyse these data.
* Understanding of ocean boundary environments and associated dynamical processes.
* Ability to work independently or within a team to solve complex research questions.
* High quality written and oral communication skills.
* Ability to work effectively at sea.

**9. Dimensions – Scope of role**

* Using expertise, provide quality outputs in support of SAMS research projects.
* Lead-author at least two 3\*/4\* publications over the employment period, and coauthor at least four.
* Work with colleagues within SAMS and externally to deliver current research projects and contribute to future bids supporting research, education and enterprise activities.
* Take ownership of your career trajectory, seeking support from your immediate line manager as well as a Mentor.

**10. Any other relevant information**

The post holder may be required to perform duties other than those given in the job description for the post. The particular duties and responsibilities attached to posts may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the duties or the level of responsibilities entailed**.** If the normal duties of the post include going to sea (apart from small boats e.g., RHIB's) the applicant must be able to obtain the ENG1 medical certification and complete the STCW 95 Personal Survival Techniques training.

[WHAT SAMS CAN OFFER YOU (please right click and select ‘open in new tab’)](https://vimeo.com/411370772)

Our Values and culture

We strive to be a world-class marine science enterprise that underpins regional, national, and international policy, and societal action to secure healthy and sustainable oceans.

As a workforce, we have a strong family and team culture, helping each other to achieve our goals.

Remuneration

We offer a competitive salary and pension as well as employee benefits package. We also have a number of supportive policies to assist absence, family, and other leave types.

Career Goals

SAMS provides a supportive learning and career growth environment for those looking for that next step in their career or upskill in the workplace. This may be through opportunities to develop techniques, learn more about the science objectives for the group, gain some tutorial opportunities, as well as attend meetings and CPD events.

We’ll provide you with a good start as you join SAMS

SAMS provides an excellent induction which is a great introduction to the organisation, the facilities, your department and team, and provides that support that you need over the early months joining a new organisation. We will also provide you with office space, computing equipment and ensure this is ready for you on your first day of work.

Employee Benefits

In addition to a general remuneration package which includes a generous salary, pension, and sickness absence policy, we offer a number of employee benefits to our staff, some of which are listed below:

* Flexible & Hybrid working arrangements (up to 2 days working from home)
* Purchase of additional annual leave – up to 20 days per annum
* Access to shopping discounts as well as local shop and leisure discounted memberships
* Cycle to work scheme
* Purchase of technology
* Payroll Giving
* Salary Sacrifice – pensions
* Access to wellbeing portals which provide support for mental health, nutrition and fitness and GP referral scheme
* Occupational health support
* Welfare support on site
* Access to CBT sessions
* Sabbatical scheme
* A number of training and development courses to assist you with your career development – leadership, coaching and mentoring.

SAMS’ commitment to gender equality has been recognised, as our institute was presented with an Athena SWAN (Scientific Women’s Academic Network) Bronze Award. SAMS is currently working towards a silver award.

SAMS have received a Youth Friendly Employer Badge 2023 – Bronze Award.

SAMS have received a Bronze Award through the Armed Forces Covenant Employer Recognition Scheme. We recognise the contribution that Service personnel, reservists, veterans, the cadet movement, and military families make to our organisation, our community and to the country. We will seek to uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant through Education, training, and employment of veterans and Service spouses.

As an Academic Partner of the University of the Highlands & Islands (UHI), SAMS is designated as an educational establishment and subject to the provisions of the Protection of Children (Scotland) Act. Certain roles may be subject to a satisfactory check by Disclosure (Scotland) as a condition of their appointment.

Applications must include CV and Cover Letter and should be sent electronically to recruitment@sams.ac.uk quoting Job Ref. ‘D33/23.NF’ in the subject line.

The closing date for applications is Wednesday 29th November 2023.

Interviews will be held by mid-December 2023.

Please note, we prefer to contact referees prior to interview.

Guidance for Applicants

Candidates must have the rights to work in the UK.

Your application – what are we looking for?

We are looking for a full CV – please remember to document all your relevant work experience, listed with the most recent first. You should also include your educational achievements with your most recent qualification first.  You should include skills and competencies gained from previous employment or education. This should be specific to the job description.  Also, please include details of two referees, one referee at least from your current role, who we may contact if invited for interview.

We enjoy reading cover letters and these are an important part of the application. In the letter, connect your past accomplishments with the requirements listed in the job description. Focus on your most relevant experience, qualifications, and skills. Where possible, quantify your accomplishments with facts and data.

 Useful links

* [How to write a flawless cover letter](https://career-advice.jobs.ac.uk/cv-and-cover-letter-advice/how-to-write-a-flawless-cover-letter-in-2020/) (please right click and select open in new tab)
* [How to write a CV](https://www.reed.co.uk/career-advice/how-to-write-a-cv/) (please right click and select open in new tab)



