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Description automatically generated**PDRA in Marine Social Science**

**Job Description**

**1. Job Details**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Job Title: | PDRA in Marine Social Science | Job Family: | Science |
| Line Manager: | Lecturer / Principal Investigator in Marine Social Science | Grade Range: | 5: £31,396 - £34,980  6: £37,099 - £41,732 |
| Full Time/Part Time: | Full Time | Duration of Appointment: | Fixed Term – 18 months |

**2. Job Purpose**

* Carry out social science research across two main projects.
* Work closely with relevant SAMS Principal Investigators and SAMS filmmaker on a National Lottery Community Fund project, ‘Unlocking the Power of Seaweed: scaling up seaweed farming in the UK’, familiarisation with relational arts-based approaches to social science research, engaging across a diversity of communities, thematic analysis, and exploring lived experiences and perspectives on low trophic aquaculture.
* Working on the [Horizon Europe BlueBioClusters](https://bluebioclusters.eu/) project with relevant SAMS Principal Investigators and international project partners to organise workshops, conducting qualitative data collection and analysis and complete project deliverables and submit peer-reviewed papers.
* Support and develop consulting work through [SAMS Enterprise](https://www.sams-enterprise.com).
* Potential to lecture across relevant BSc, MSc, and Doctoral training modules.

Please see section 10 for more information on the funders.

The position is advertised across 2 grades. Where a candidate is appointed at the higher grade, the duties and responsibilities will be adjusted on appointment to reflect this.

**3. Main Responsibilities**

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| --- | --- |
| *Role Description* | *Approx. % of time* |
| Working within the marine social science area, carry out identified activities and deliver on relevant projects. Manage own project areas and tasks:   * Identify and organise workshops, surveys, and interviews, and filming as required. * Conduct qualitative analysis of research data. * Engage with sea farmers, and the diversity of coastal communities. * Present work, where required, at project/stakeholder meetings. * Connect with project partners/stakeholders and develop future research collaborations. * Develop own research career trajectory and contribute to future research/commercial income streams. * Write project reports. | 80-90% |
| Publish research in reputable social science journals (e.g. in areas similar to REF2021 UoA25 (Area Studies), 1-2 per annum. | 5-10% |
| There is potential to support lecturing on:   * The Industrial Doctoral Training Centre for Offshore Renewable Energy. * The Governance and Society Module in the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master’s Degree in Aquaculture, Environment and Society (with the opportunity to lead the module). * SAMS-UHI Marine Science Undergraduate Degree. | 5-10% |
| Engage with SAMS Enterprise agenda with a view to applying social science area to Enterprise activities. | Ongoing |
| Be pro-active in the application of SAMS Health and Safety Procedures. | Ongoing |

**4. Planning and Organising**

* Work with the relevant project PIs to deliver high-quality research and engagement activities, as appropriate to the field and project.
* In collaboration with the project team, implement and deliver time-relevant project tasks as determined by the SAMS PIs, Task Leaders and Work Package Leaders, including attending project meetings, taking meeting minutes, and distributing relevant information across the projects.
* In collaboration with SAMS Enterprise, identify and deliver any relevant commercial project tasks.
* Plan, manage and deliver own workload independently to quality and time, producing high-impact outputs.
* Develop networks and attend relevant project/enterprise meetings.

**5. Problem-Solving**

* Contribute to internal and external research partner input into projects.
* Provide support to PI and colleagues as appropriate.
* Able to take responsibility for own area and work through problems and solutions independently.
* Able to manage workload and achieve deliverables including paper outputs – dedicated time has been provided for this.
* Contribute to mid-term strategic thinking and development of new research proposals with PI in own area of expertise – forward thinking.

**6. Decision-Making**

* Assess resource requirements, securing and organising resources effectively.
* Peer review of research publications and proposals.
* In collaboration with others both at SAMS and funding partners, prioritise own social science activities to achieve a project plan.
* Be self-motivated and able to work without close supervision.

**7. Key Contacts/Relationships**

* Develop and manage relationships within SAMS and with relevant external organisations in the public, private or voluntary sector.
* With the relevant PIs, represent SAMS in the field and in research networks involving peers locally, nationally and further afield.

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

Essential:

* PhD in social or marine science discipline.
* Excellent communication skills (oral and written).
* Understanding of and ability to apply a range of techniques – Practical experience with social-ecological systems (soft systems, conceptual, quantitative, etc.) Ability to conduct interviews, workshops, focus groups, and thematically analyse collected data.
* Evidence of peer-reviewed paper outputs.
* Innovative, keen to learn, and sensitive to complexities - able to bring energy to role and provide nuanced solutions to problems/issues.
* Able to manage a variety of project activities with differing timescales and priorities.
* Willingness to travel nationally/internationally.
* Understanding of ethical procedures when working with a range of different participants.
* The ability to work within a team and across different disciplines within marine science.

Desirable:

* Experience of effective engagement and interaction with internal and external partners, participants, rights-holders, and stakeholders.
* Evidence of contributions towards successful grant capture.
* Some experience of working in interdisciplinary teams.
* Some evidence of teaching / lecturing.
* Some experience in outreach (including the public / media).
* Keen to develop a niche area at SAMS. May be able to bring something new to the role and compliment current team dynamic.

**9. Dimensions – Scope of role**

* Deliver on a number of project and SAMS Enterprise funded tasks.
* Contribute to funding proposals led by Principal Investigator.
* Organise and engage in national and international exchanges.
* Produce high-impact publications and reports.
* Develop career path and engage with training and CPD activities.

**10. Funders**

‘Unlocking the Power of Seaweed: scaling up seaweed farming in the UK’:

Thanks to National Lottery players, WWF-UK has received almost £1 million over three years from The National Lottery Community Fund, the largest community funder in the UK. The funding will allow the organisation to work with partners including Scottish Association for Marine Science, to accelerate the expansion of regenerative seaweed farming in the UK. This will benefit local communities by providing employment opportunities, supporting coastal industries such as tourism and fishing, and inspiring people to support and take pride in their local and cultural heritage. This grant comes from the Climate Action Fund, a £100 million commitment over 10 years from The National Lottery Community Fund to support communities across the UK to take action on climate change and involve more people in climate action. This forms part of one of the funder’s four key missions in its 2030 strategy, ‘It starts with community’ - supporting communities to be environmentally sustainable.

‘Bluebioclusters’:

The Bluebioclusters project is funded by the European Union under grant agreement ID 101060703.

**11. 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 can SAMS offer you?](https://vimeo.com/411370772)

*Please right click and select ‘open in new tab’*

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.
* Free car parking
* Electric car charge points on-site

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

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](mailto:recruitment@sams.ac.uk) quoting Job Ref. ‘D10/24.SB’ in the subject line.

The closing date for applications is 16th August 2024.

Interviews to be held by the end of August 2024.

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

Guidance for Applicants

We are unfortunately not able to provide visa sponsorship for this position.

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)

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A close-up of a sign

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