

- ## PDRA in Aquatic Ecotoxicology

Location: SAMS site, Dunbeg, near Oban

- Hours of work: 37 per week

Salary range: Grade 5 £31,396.00 - £34,980.00 pa

Grade 6 £37,099.00 - £41,732.00 pa

- Contract type: Fixed Term 24 months

Company

The Scottish Association for Marine Science is an equal opportunity employer; we welcome applications from people with disabilities. We value the diversity of the people we hire and serve.

Diversity at SAMS means fostering a workplace in which individual differences are recognised, appreciated and respected, as well as responded to in ways that fully develop and utilise each person's talents and strengths.

Job Description

- Your main responsibilities will be:
The PDRA will be working on a newly funded project looking at Calanus copepods as vectors of contaminants in the marine environment. They will primarily be responsible for a series of small boat-based experiments looking at the molecular, behavioural, and survival effects of various contaminants including heavy metals, pharmaceuticals, PFAS, and PAH.

- There will be several field campaigns in Loch Etive and in the Moray Firth to collect *Calanus* and water samples.
- The PDRA will lead work on data analysis and interpretation, as well as leading the communication of key findings through peer-reviewed papers and presentations at conferences and project meetings.
- SAMS is a teaching institute through the University of the Highlands and Islands, and there will be opportunities for the PDRA to deliver lectures and supervise students in research projects.

Requirements and Qualifications

Lead stressor and ecotoxicology experiments on *Calanus* copepods and multiple effects analysis (molecular, physiological, behavioural, survival)

Data analysis and interpretation

Take part in Scottish fieldwork on small research vessels

Manage *Calanus* culture at SAMS

Contribute to regular multi-institute project meetings (online and in-person)

Communication and dissemination of results via peer-reviewed publications and conference presentations

Contribute to other SAMS institutional activities (e.g. teaching, student supervision, and engagement with research community)

Our Ideal Candidate

- We are looking for someone with experimental aquatic research experience, ideally in a research aquarium setting.
- The role will also involve fieldwork on small research vessels.
- Due to the interdisciplinary nature of the project, experience in working across disciplines would be an advantage.
- The work will require exceptional laboratory skills as well as a high level of competence in

data analysis and presentation, scientific writing, and the communication of key findings at project meetings and larger conferences.

- There will be opportunities for teaching and student supervision at undergraduate and postgraduate level; experience in teaching and education is a benefit but not essential.

How to Apply

Applications may be submitted by e-mail, handed in to our reception team or by postal mail no later than 7th April 2026

Interviews will be held shortly after the closing date.

(Job Ref No: D25/26.LH)

(Scottish Association for Marine Science)

(SAMS, Dunbeg, Oban, Argyll, PA37 1QA)

(01631 559000)

(recruitment@sams.ac.uk)

[\(Vacancies — Scottish Association for Marine Science, Oban UK\)](#)

Attention: (SAMS HR team)