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

**Job Description**

1. **Job Details**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Job Title: | Senior PDRA in Marine Social Science | Department: | Science |
| Line Manager: | Senior Lecturer in Marine Social Science | Grade and Salary Range: | 6  £37,099 - £41,732 per annum |
| Full Time/Part Time: | Full Time (37hrs per week) | Duration of Appointment: | Fixed Term – funded until 13th February 2028. |

**2. Job Purpose**

Carry out research in the GLOBALSEAWEED - PROTECT project. This will include familiarisation with theory and methods for participatory action research and policy, working with relevant SAMS Principal Investigators (PIs) and external international project partners to organise research workshops, surveys and interviews, conducting qualitative and quantitative data analysis, and contributing to project deliverables and peer-reviewed papers. You will also teach relevant BSc courses and the IDCORE doctoral summer school.

**Background to the project and relevant links**: GLOBALSEAWEED-PROTECT: ‘*conserve, improve, innovate, manage and empower for a resilient seaweed aquaculture industry*’ is a three-year UKRI BBSRC funded project led by Merit Researcher Prof. Juliet Brodie at the NHM. The team also include Professor Elizabeth Cottier-Cook and Dr Bernadette Snow (Scottish Association for Marine Science), and Professor Phaik Eem Lim (University of Malaya). The project consortium includes representatives from Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam and Scotland. This is an exciting and novel project that builds on previously UK-funded programmes, including [GLOBALSEAWEED – STAR](https://www.sams.ac.uk/science/projects/globalseaweedstar/), Innovative Seaweed Aquaculture and [GLOBALSEAWEED - SUPERSTAR](https://globalseaweed.org/).

**3. Main Responsibilities**

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| --- | --- |
| *Description* | *Approx. % of time* |
| Working within the marine social science area, carry out identified activities and deliver on the GLOBALSEAWEED - PROTECT project.  Manage own project areas and tasks, as follows:   * Scoping research (in Indonesia and Thailand) – community-led action research, OUTPUT: co-written report with pathway for enhancing seaweed biosecurity and towards sustainable seaweed aquaculture. * Develop a strategy for co-designing outputs with stakeholders (with other work package leads). * Support research for community-led roadmap for sustainable seaweed aquaculture in Indonesia and Thailand. * Policy Paper on community-led seaweed aquaculture and biosecurity enhancement. * Training materials development with partners and stakeholders. * Support Social Business Policy Brief development. * Identify and organise workshops, surveys and interviews, as required. * Conduct qualitative analysis of research data. * Engage with policymakers. * Present work, where required, at project/stakeholder meetings. * Connect with project partners/stakeholders and develop future research collaborations. * Continue to develop own research career trajectory. | 80 |
| Publish research in reputable social science journals (e.g. in area similar to REF2021 UoA25 (Area Studies), 1-2 per annum. You may be required to write reports as requested. | 10 |
| Collaborate with project partners/networks to identify new research projects that run in parallel to current research activities. | 5 |
| Engage with [SAMS Enterprise](https://www.sams-enterprise.com) agenda with a view to mapping skills base and contribute to identifying and applying social science area to enterprise activities. | 5 |
| Be pro-active in the application of SAMS Health and Safety Procedures. | Ongoing |

Read more about SAMS science activities [here](https://www.sams.ac.uk/science/) (right click and open in new tab).

**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 GLOBALSEAWEED - PROTECT time-relevant project tasks as determined by 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 new networks and attend relevant project/enterprise meetings.
* Plan and contribute to the development of new collaborations for future proposals.

**5. Problem Solving**

* Attend and 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/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.
* Provide solutions to problems on site or out on field to achieve outcomes required.

**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.
* Be-able to travel UK and overseas, including remote locations.

**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).
* Evidence of track record already obtained as a Post Doc.
* Evidence of some grant capture/peer-reviewed paper outputs.
* Evidence of a range of techniques already applied and ability to develop new techniques – Practical experience with social-ecological systems modelling (soft systems, conceptual, quantitative, etc.) Ability to conduct stakeholder workshops, focus groups etc.
* Innovative and keen to develop career - able to bring energy to role and provide solutions to problems/issues.
* Able to manage a variety of project activities with differing timescales and priorities – project management.
* Able to travel nationally/internationally – as part of project tasks, you will be travelling to Indonesia/Thailand.
* Ethics involved when working with a range of different stakeholders.
* 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 and stakeholders.
* Engage with SAMS main science areas and address areas/gaps to apply marine social science activity in a way that maximises the benefit to SAMS/marine community.
* Evidence of applying new techniques/ideas successfully.
* Experience of working in inter and transdisciplinary teams.
* Some evidence of supervising staff/students.
* 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/or Enterprise funded tasks.
* Contribute to funding proposals led by Principal Investigator.
* Organise and engage in international exchanges.
* Produce high impact publications/reports.
* Develop career path and engage with training and CPD activities.

**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. RHIBs) 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) – will depend on role dynamic
* 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
* 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 holds a Youth Friendly Employer Badge – Bronze Award.

We are now a Fair Work Employer.

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. ‘D25/24.BS’ in the subject line.

The closing date for applications is 28th March 2025

Interviews to be held in April 2025.

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

Guidance for Applicants

This position unfortunately does not meet the minimum requirements for sponsorship to work in the UK. You must therefore have the rights in place to work in the UK already.

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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