



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

## CANDIDATE BRIEF

### Research Fellow in Avian Influenza Ecology, Faculty of Biological Sciences



**Salary: Grade 7 (£37,099 - £44,263 p.a.). Due to funding limitations, it is unlikely an appointment will be made above £39,347.**

**Reference: FBSBY1183**

**Available on a fixed-term, full-time basis for 14 months (external funding)**

**This role will be based on the university campus. We are also open to discussing flexible working arrangements.**

# Research Fellow in Avian Influenza Ecology

## School of Biology

**Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have an established background in avian ecology and ecological modelling? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive Universities?**

We are seeking a talented field ecologist and ecological modeller with good knowledge of ornithology and excellent interpersonal and communication skills to join our team in evaluating the role of wild birds in the epizootiology of avian influenza in poultry. This will require coordination of sample collection by hunters from birds that they have shot around Great Britain in order to evaluate whether different strains of avian influenza virus can be tracked over space and time. There will also be periodic surveys to measure bird community structure and bird behaviour across East Yorkshire. You will use the survey data to construct preliminary ecological network models of wild birds.

For this role, you should have a PhD (or close to completion) in ecology or a closely allied discipline. You should also have experience in ornithological survey and identification, and ecological modelling.

The University of Leeds and the Faculty of Biological Sciences are committed to providing equal opportunities for all and offer a range of family friendly policies. The University is a charter member of Athena SWAN (the national body that promotes gender equality in higher education), and the Faculty of Biological Sciences was awarded a Silver award in 2020. We are proud to be an inclusive Faculty that values all staff, and are happy to consider job share applications and requests for flexible working arrangements from our employees. Our Athena SWAN [webpage](#) provides more information.

## What does the role entail?

As a Research Fellow, your main duties will include:

- Designing, planning and conducting a programme of investigation, in consultation with [Dr Alastair Ward](#);
- Generating independent and original research ideas and methods in wildlife network ecology with an aim to extend the group's research portfolio;





- Making a significant contribution to the dissemination of research results by publication in leading peer-reviewed journals, and by presentation at national and international meetings;
- Working independently and as part of a larger team of researchers, both internally and externally, to develop new research links and collaborations and engage in knowledge transfer activities where appropriate;
- Contributing to the supervision of junior researchers and PhD students and acting as a mentor to less experienced colleagues;
- Evaluating methods and techniques used and results obtained by other researchers and relating such evaluations to your own research;
- To contribute to, and to encourage, a safe working environment.

These duties provide a framework for the role and should not be regarded as a definitive list. Other reasonable duties may be required consistent with the grade of the post.

## What will you bring to the role?

As a Research Fellow, you will have:

- A PhD (or close to completion) in ecology or a closely allied discipline;
- Experience in ornithological survey and identification, and ecological modelling;
- The ability to design, execute and write up research independently;
- A developing track record of peer reviewed publications in international journals;
- Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal, and the ability to communicate your research at national and international conferences;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines;
- A proven ability to work well both independently and as part of a team;
- Ability to work accurately and carefully;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development.

You may also have:

- Experience in coordinating volunteer groups and network modelling;
- Evidence of pursuing external funding to support research.



## How to apply

You can apply for this role online; more guidance can be found on our [How to Apply](#) information page. Applications should be submitted by **23.59** (UK time) on the advertised closing date.

Your application should include:

- A supporting statement providing evidence to support each requirement listed on the 'What will you bring to the role' section of the Candidate Brief (no more than two sides of A4, minimum font size 11);
- An academic curriculum vitae, including a list of your publications.

## Contact information

To explore the post further or for any queries you may have, please contact:

**[Dr Alastair Ward](#)**, Associate Professor of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management

Email: [a.i.ward@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:a.i.ward@leeds.ac.uk)

*Please note: If you are not a British or Irish citizen, from 1 January 2021 you will require permission to work in the UK. This will normally be in the form of a visa but, if you are an EEA/Swiss citizen and resident in the UK before 31 December 2020, this may be your passport or status under the EU Settlement Scheme.*

## Additional information

Find out more about the [Faculty of Biological Sciences](#) and the [School of Biology](#)

Find out more about our [Research and associated facilities](#).

Find out more about our [Faculty initiatives](#).

At the University of Leeds, we are committed to providing a culture of inclusion, respect and equity of opportunity that attracts, supports, and retains the best students and staff





from all backgrounds and from across the world. Whatever role we recruit for we are always striving to increase the diversity of our community, which each individual helps enrich and cultivate. We particularly encourage applications from, but not limited to Black, Asian, people who belong to a minority ethnic community; people who identify as LGBT+; and disabled people. Candidates will always be selected based on merit and ability.

### **Working at Leeds**

We are a campus-based community and regular interaction with campus is an expectation of all roles in line with academic and service needs and the requirements of the role. We are also open to discussing flexible working arrangements. To find out more about the benefits of working at the University and what it is like to live and work in the Leeds area visit our [Working at Leeds](#) information page.

### **Candidates with disabilities**

Information for candidates with disabilities, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found on our [Accessibility](#) information page or by getting in touch with us at [disclosure@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:disclosure@leeds.ac.uk).

## **Criminal record information**

### **Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974**

A criminal record check is not required for this position. However, all applicants will be required to declare if they have any 'unspent' criminal offences, including those pending.

Any offer of appointment will be in accordance with our Criminal Records policy. You can find out more about required checks and declarations in our [Criminal Records](#) information page.

