



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Assistant in Invasive Species Biosecurity, Faculty of Biological Sciences



Salary: Grade 6 (£32,296 - £37,999 p.a.)

Reference: FBSBY1204

Available on a fixed-term basis until 18 February 2025 (to complete specific time limited work)

This role will be based on the university campus with UK fieldwork, with scope for aspects to be undertaken in a hybrid manner. We are also open to discussing flexible working arrangements.

Research Assistant in Invasive Species Biosecurity

School of Biology

Are you an early career researcher looking for your first challenge? Do you have a background in biological invasions or biosecurity Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive Universities?

We are seeking an enthusiastic, capable and adaptable scientist with excellent communication skills, who has experience with invasive species, biosecurity, and the water supply process. This fixed-term post will determine the potential of exploiting our fundamental research on biosecurity to slow the spread of invasive species in an industrial context. You should have a strong interest in applied research and working with Industry. You will work closely with academics from the Schools of Biology and Engineering to develop and test biosecurity protocols for use in water transfers.

What we offer in return

- 26 days holiday plus approx.16 Bank Holidays/days that the University is closed by custom (including Christmas)
- Generous pension scheme options plus life assurance
- Health and Wellbeing: Discounted staff membership options at The Edge, our state-of-the-art Campus gym, with a pool, sauna, climbing wall, cycle circuit, and sports halls.
- Personal Development: Access to courses run by our Organisational Development & Professional Learning team.
- Access to on-site childcare, shopping discounts and travel schemes are also available.

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.



Main duties and responsibilities

- Contributing to the Slowing the Spread of Invasive Species in Water Transfers project, as directed by Professor Alison M. Dunn. Project duties include but are not limited to collecting invertebrate and plant specimens from UK field sites, design and construction of filter and hydrocyclone apparatus, and laboratory experiments in biosecurity
- Generating original ideas based on the outcome of analysis, in collaboration with Professor Alison M. Dunn, Professor Martin Tillotson and Industrial Partners, Yorkshire Water ;
- Contributing to the dissemination of research results in leading peer-reviewed journals and through presentation at meetings and conferences, with guidance as necessary;
- Supporting the activities of the research group to ensure a successful programme of investigation, including participation at group meetings and seminars;
- Providing support and advice to other members of the group, and assisting in the supervision of students;
- Working both independently and as part of a larger team of researchers and stakeholders;
- Continually updating your knowledge, understanding and skills in the research field in which you work.

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.

Qualifications and skills

Essential

- A first degree/Masters in Biology or related subject
- Experience in invasive species, biosecurity, water supply networks
- Evidence of contributing to papers in internationally recognised, peer-reviewed journals or evidence of publishable research in progress;
- Good interpersonal and communication skills, both written and verbal, and the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of stakeholders;



- 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
- UK driving licence

Desirable

- A PhD (or close to completion) in biology
- Experience in invasive species fieldwork
- UK powerboat licence.
- Accepted publications in internationally recognised, peer-reviewed journals.

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.

Contact information

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

[Alison M. Dunn](#), Professor of Ecology

a.dunn@leeds.ac.uk

Tel: +44 (0)113 3432856

Please note: If you are not a British or Irish citizen, 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, this may be your status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

Additional information

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



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.

Our University

As an international research-intensive university, we welcome students and staff from all walks of life. We foster an inclusive environment where all can flourish and prosper, and we are proud of our strong commitment to student education. Within the Faculty of Biological Sciences we are dedicated to diversifying our community and we welcome the unique contributions that individuals can bring, and particularly encourage applications from, but not limited to Black, Asian, those 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. »

Information for disabled candidates

Information for disabled candidates, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found under the 'Accessibility' heading on our [How to Apply](#) information page or by getting in touch by [emailing HR via hr@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:hr@leeds.ac.uk).

Salary Requirements of the Skilled Worker Visa Route

If you are not a British or Irish citizen, 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, this may be your status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

Please note that due to Home Office visa requirements, this role may only be suitable for first-time Skilled Worker visa applicants if they are eligible for salary concessions. For more information, please visit [the Government's Skilled Worker visa page](#).



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.

