



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in the Evolution of Senescence, Faculty of Biological Sciences



Salary: Grade 7 (£32,548– £38,833 p.a.)

Reference: FBSBY1077

Closing date: 5 October 2017

Fixed-term for up to 1 year (maternity cover)

Latest start date 1 December 2017

Research Fellow in the Evolution of Senescence

School of Biology

Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have an established background in studying evolutionary biology in natural populations? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive Universities?

We are seeking an ambitious scientist to join a dynamic research group that focuses on ageing in natural populations. As individuals reach older ages their bodies deteriorate - a process known as senescence. It is clear that individuals differ greatly in the age at which they start to senesce and how quickly they then deteriorate; however, why individuals senesce so differently remains unresolved. The research group takes a comprehensive and integrative approach to investigate why individual variation in senescence evolved and is maintained. We apply genomic and statistical techniques to investigate senescence using our long-term datasets from natural populations of European badgers, Seychelles warblers and acorn woodpeckers.

The position is to provide support for an academic taking maternity leave. You will join a strong and active research team that is part of a growing initiative entitled Leeds Omics. You will conduct original research using our long-term data, with opportunities for both field and laboratory (microsatellite genotyping; training will be provided) work. You will help supervise the research group and make some minor undergraduate and postgraduate teaching contributions.

You will have a PhD (or close to completion) in evolutionary biology or a closely allied discipline combined with excellent working knowledge of evolutionary theory and experience in extracting and analysing data from long-term study systems.

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 gained a Bronze award in 2014 and submitted an application for a Silver award in April 2017. 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;
- Generating independent and original research and methods in the evolution of senescence with an aim to extend the 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 evolutionary biology or a closely allied discipline;
- Excellent working knowledge of evolutionary theory;
- Experience in extracting and analysing data from long-term study systems;
- Strong programming skills in R are essential;
- Strong analytical skills, with the ability to work accurately and carefully, designing, executing and writing 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;



- The ability to work well both independently and as part of a team;
- Strong initiative and a pro-active approach, with excellent organisational, planning and self-management skills, including the ability to prioritise workloads to meet deadlines/demand and deliver high quality under pressure;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development.

You may also have:

- Experience in management of research projects;
- Experience in assisting more junior researchers to query Access databases, run genetic parentage analyses, develop programming skills in R, Python or Unix, conduct statistical analyses and improve scientific writing skills;
- Molecular ecology laboratory skills e.g. DNA extraction and microsatellite genotyping;
- 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 Hannah Dugdale](#), Associate Professor

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 5598

Email: H.Dugdale@leeds.ac.uk



Additional information

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

Working at Leeds

Find out more about the benefits of working at the University and what it is like to live and work in the Leeds area on 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.

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.

