**Job Description: Research Assistant**

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| **Faculty:** | ***Science & Engineering*** |
| **Department/Subject:** | ***Biosciences*** |
| **Salary:** | *Grade 7: £32,982 per annum* |
| **Hours of work:** | ***Full time*** |
| **Number of positions:** | ***1*** |
| **Contract:** | **This is a fixed term position for 2 years** |
| **Location:** | **This position will be based at the Singleton Campus** |

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| **Main Duties** | This position is part of a project funded by the Leverhulme Trust to carry out research on the role of epigenetics (random epimutations) on the evolution of the variety of temperature-dependent sex determination mechanisms in fish, using zebrafish and killifish as models. Sex determination is remarkably variable in vertebrates; sexes can be separate or together in the same individual (hermaphrodites), and can be determined by chromosomes, master genes or even by the environment. Why such a critical process for species’ survival is so variable? This project will investigate the role of non-genetic (epigenetic) regulatory mechanisms influenced by the environment on the evolution of temperature-dependent sex-determination, by testing the hypothesis that random epigenetic changes occurring on genes related to sex-determination can persist over generations when affected by natural selection, and in this way explain the variety of sex-determination routes observed in vertebrates.  The main specific tasks of the post include:   1. Participate in the design of the experimental plan under the supervision of the PI and the PDRA. 2. Lead the experimental and molecular laboratory parts of the project under the training and supervision of the PDRA and PI. 3. Participate in the Bioinformatics and statistical analyses in collaboration with the PI and PDRA. 4. Participate in the writing up of papers and reports on the results of the project as required, in collaboration with the PDRA, PI, CoI and collaborators. 5. Disseminate/communicate the results of the projects at academic conferences, general public events and social media (when relevant). 6. Attend regular meetings to discuss the progress of the project with the PI, CoI and collaborators. |
|  | More general tasks include:   1. Pro-actively contribute to and conduct research, including gather, prepare and analyse data, generate original ideas and present results. 2. Prepare reports, draft patents and papers describing the results of the research, both confidential and for publication. 3. Be self-motivated, apply and use their initiative, aiming to determine suitable ways to tackle challenges and seeking guidance when needed. 4. Interact positively and professionally with other collaborators and partners within the Faculty and elsewhere in the University and beyond as appropriate. 5. Contribute to Faculty organisational matters in order to help it run smoothly and to help raise its external research profile. 6. Keep informed of developments in the field in technical, specific and general terms and their wider implication for the discipline area, commercial applications and the knowledge economy. 7. When requested act as a representative or member of committees, using the opportunity to extend their own professional experience. 8. Demonstrate and evidence own professional development, identifying development needs with reference to the Vitae Researcher Development Framework, particularly with regard to probation, PDR and participation in training events. 9. Maintain and enhance links with the professional institutions and other related bodies. 10. Observe best-practice protocols in maintenance and retention of research records as indicated by HEI and Research Councils records management guidance.  This includes ensuring project log-book records are deposited with the University/Principal Investigator on completion of the work. |
| **General Duties** | 1. To promote equality and diversity in working practices and maintain positive working relationships. 2. To conduct the job role and all activities in accordance with safety, health and sustainability policies and management systems, in order to reduce risks and impacts arising from the work activity. 3. To ensure that risk management is an integral part of any decision making process, by ensuring compliance with the University’s Risk Management Policy. 4. Any other duties as agreed by the Faculty / Directorate / Service Area. |
| **Person Specification** | **Essential criteria:**   1. A Degree in Biology, Zoology or similar. 2. Experience in animal experimentation and/or fish husbandry. 3. Laboratory experience (molecular biology or similar). 4. Evidence of the ability to actively engage in and contribute to writing and publishing research papers, particularly for refereed journals. 5. A demonstrable ability to conduct research in line with the objectives of the project. 6. Evidence of planning skills to contribute to the research project. 7. A commitment to continuous professional development   **Desirable Criteria**   1. Qualifications – a postgraduate qualification (Masters level) in any subject relevant for the project (e.g., Fisheries and Aquaculture, Molecular Ecology, Conservation Genetics) 2. Basic familiarity with genomics and epigenetics 3. Familiarity with model fish species (e.g. zebrafish) |
| **Welsh Language Level** | Level 1 – ‘a little’ - pronounce Welsh words. Able to answer the phone in Welsh (good morning / afternoon). Able to use very basic every-day words and phrases (thank you, please etc.). Level 1 can be reached by completing a one-hour training course.  For more information about the Welsh Language Levels please refer to the Welsh Language Skills Assessment web page, which is available [here](https://www.swansea.ac.uk/welsh-language-standards/compliance/recruitment/). |
| **Additional Information** | Informal enquiries: Prof Sofia Consuegra, s.consuegra@swansea.ac.uk |

  