Nottingham Trent University

Research Associate

School or Department: School of Science and Technology, Biosciences department

Grade & Salary: Grade F £29,352 - £33,739 per annum

Role Description: The principal purpose of the job will be to contribute to the development of research outputs in river ecology.

The role will encompass all of the following, but the balance of duties and responsibilities will be determined in discussion with the post holder's line manager:

Subject Area

River Ecology

Project-specific information

Colleagues at Nottingham Trent University are collaborating with Freshwater Habitats Trust, Wessex Rivers Trust and the Environment Agency on this research project. We will assess the effects of restoration actions on the biodiversity and wider ecological quality of 'winterbourne' chalk streams, which shift between wet and dry conditions and thus support both aquatic and terrestrial species. The work is part of Headstart, an ambitious project that will drive nature recovery throughout river networks—by starting in the headwaters.

Our key goal is to assess the effectiveness of a restoration project underway in a Dorset winterbourne, in terms of benefits for both aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity and wider ecosystem quality. As such, our findings will provide evidence that informs the design of future restoration actions taken to support winterbourne biodiversity. As 'temporary' streams increase in extent due to global change, our research will also be relevant to ecologists around the world.

As our Research Associate, you will work alongside a Research Assistant and our collaborators and under the supervision of Prof. Rachel Stubbington. You'll organize and lead a programme of fieldwork to survey river habitats and to sample aquatic and terrestrial invertebrate communities in a winterbourne stream. You will also lead the processing of collected samples in the laboratory and to identify the invertebrates present. Then, you'll lead the analysis of the resultant dataset, and will contribute to the reporting of project results.

You will become part of our diverse research team, which includes professorial to undergraduate researchers who are investigating biodiversity responses to environmental variability in freshwater ecosystems.

The post involves driving to field sites in Dorset, England, with occasional overnight stays (travel, accommodation and subsistence costs will be covered). A full clean UK driving licence is essential.

Other principal duties are on the next page.

Principal Duties

1) Contribute to the research on the 'Headstart' project investigating river restoration in 'winterbourne' chalk streams. This will involve organizing and conducting risk-assessed fieldwork, laboratory work, data analysis and reporting, and other duties as detailed above.
2) Contribute to any related research plans and safely carry out risk-assessed research activity in line with defined research plan objectives, documenting results and drafting reports of research findings. May be required to format script as required.
3) Identify and disseminate relevant information to the research team, providing advice on project progress as appropriate; communicating with internal and external contacts as necessary.
4) Act as a resource for staff and students, demonstrating/equipment/techniques/systems if required to small research teams.
5) Contribute to the analysis and interpretation of the results of research and generate ideas based on these outcomes.
6) Keep knowledge and skills up the required level by engaging in internal and externally based core professional development.
7) Ensure that all resources used are correctly recorded and documented, files are kept up to date and data accuracy is maintained, in accordance with the project data management plan.
8) Attend and contribute to meetings as appropriate.

N.B. The post-holder may be required to undertake any other duties which may reasonably be required as within the nature of the duties and responsibilities of the post as defined, subject to the proviso that normally any changes of a permanent nature shall be incorporated into the job description in specific terms.

Our Principles, Our Ways:

Our Ways represents a commitment to making a difference, taking bold steps, and maintaining moral standards. It's about proactively creating positive change while prioritising integrity and accountability in all our actions. We encourage colleagues to strive towards Our Ways with the following behaviours:

Our Ways		
We change lives.	**We are bold.**	**We do the right thing.**
Relationships with others	Adaptability	Planning and delivering work
Delivering through others	Problem solving	Accountability
	Developing yourself	

Personal Attributes:

Attributes	Essential	Desirable
Knowledge	An understanding of standard research techniques and methods within river ecology Thorough knowledge of equipment and machinery for project work, including routine testing and maintenance procedures, ability to demonstrate equipment to teaching or research staff where appropriate Understanding of other equipment and machinery within the school where appropriate Expertise in relevant computer packages	An understanding of ecology in a Higher Education context
Skills	Ability to collate, interpret and analyse data Bibliographic research skills (including use of electronic library resources) Ability to demonstrate specific equipment and techniques specifically related to river ecology if required Ability to collect and collate bibliographic and other information from academic staff and/or research students regarding their research and other related activities Ability to troubleshoot problems and escalate more complex problems which may affect the achievement of research objectives and deadlines	Systematic approach to managing information Ability to explain complex ideas clearly using simple language
Experience	Significant relevant work experience in an academic environment Experience of report writing Experience of data collection, analysis and interpretation	

Qualifications	A degree or relevant equivalent professional qualifications/work experience in relevant subject Masters degree or relevant equivalent professional qualifications/work experience in relevant subject.	Relevant postgraduate qualification/ equivalent work experience in the subject area or other relevant discipline Membership of relevant professional bodies