

THE POST

College/Service: Egenis, The Centre for the Study of the Life Sciences (formerly the ESRC Centre for Genomics in Society), College of Social Sciences and International Studies - <http://socialsciences.exeter.ac.uk/>

Post: Associate Research Fellow

Reference No: P45222

Grade: Grade E

Reporting To: Professor John Dupré

Responsible For: There are no line-management responsibilities.

The above full-time fixed term post is available 01/09/2013 to 31/08/2017 in the College of Social Sciences and International Studies.

Main purpose of the job:

This post is part of a five year ERC-funded project, A Process Ontology for Contemporary Biology, which will explore the idea that many developments in contemporary biology, for example, in genomics, systems biology, microbiology, metagenomics, and epigenetics, can be best understood from the perspective of a process-centred ontology. The successful applicant will work closely with the PI, Professor John Dupré, on the general ontological problems arising in the project, and providing general assistance to the PI in the management of the project.

The ARF will collaborate with the PI on drafting and editing papers emerging from the project. It is expected that s/he will be sole or joint author on a proportion of the project outputs. The ARF will also be responsible for literature searches on relevant historical and contemporary aspects of process philosophy and biology, and for assisting with general management of the project, including the organisation of workshops.

Main duties and accountabilities:

1. To undertake research as appropriate to the field of study including:
 - Making presentations at national and international conferences and similar events;
 - Dealing with problems which may affect the achievement of research objectives and deadlines;
 - Analysing and interpreting the results of own research and generating original ideas based on outcomes;
 - Using creativity to analyse and interpret research data and draw conclusions on the outcomes;
 - Using initiative and creativity to identify areas for research, developing new research methods and extending the research portfolio;
 - Developing research objectives and proposals for own or joint research;
 - Writing up research work for publication.

2. To work in collaboration with colleagues as appropriate to the field of study including:
 - Contributing to collaborative decision making within the research group;
 - Contributing to the production of collaborative research reports and publications.
 - Preparing papers and presenting information on research progress and outcomes to bodies supervising research, e.g. steering groups.

3. To communicate complex information, orally, in writing and electronically.
4. To prepare proposals and applications to external bodies, e.g. for funding and contractual purposes
5. To contribute to the planning of research projects.
6. To use research resources, laboratories and workshops as appropriate and to take responsibility for conducting risk assessments, reducing hazards and for the health and safety of others.
7. To monitor research budgets as appropriate.
8. To engage in continuous professional development and to be responsible for continually updating knowledge and understanding in field of study or specialism and for developing skills.

This job description summarises the main duties and accountabilities of the post and is not comprehensive: the post-holder may be required to undertake other duties of similar level and responsibility. Please visit the Human Resources website to view the Associate Research Fellow role profiles.

Person Specification

Competency	Essential	Desirable
Attainments/Qualifications	PhD in Philosophy	
Skills and Understanding	Sufficient knowledge in the discipline and of research methods and techniques to work within established research programmes.	Background in philosophy of science, preferably philosophy of biology; alternatively expertise in naturalistic metaphysics with familiarity with central literature in philosophy of science.
Prior Experience	.None essential	
Behavioural Characteristics	<p>Excellent written and verbal communication skills.</p> <p>Able to communicate material of a specialist or technical nature.</p> <p>Able to manage research and administrative activities and to balance the competing pressures of research and administrative demands and deadlines.</p> <p>Able to liaise with colleagues and students.</p> <p>Able to build contacts and participate in internal and external networks for the exchange of information and collaboration.</p> <p>Actively participate as a member of a research team</p> <p>Engage in continuous professional development.</p> <p>Understand equal opportunity issues as they may impact on areas of research content</p>	Able to identify potential sources of funding.

Circumstances	Ability to take up the post on 1 st September 2013.	
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Informal Enquiries

Before submitting an application you may wish to discuss the post further by contacting John Dupré, PI, j.a.dupre@exeter.ac.uk.

Additional Information Relating to the Post

Salary

Salary will be circa £24,766 - £27,854 per annum subject to knowledge, skills and experience.

An increment will be payable on 1 August each year until the top of the scale is reached (subject to being in post for 6 months and satisfactory performance). The scale will be subject to a cost of living review each year.

Hours of work

There are no specific hours of work but staff are required to work such hours as are necessary to carry out the duties associated with the appointment

Annual Leave

The annual leave entitlement for full-time appointments is 41 days per calendar year (pro rata for part-time appointments). For further information see our website <http://www.admin.ex.ac.uk/personnel/leave.shtml>.

Probationary Period

The appointment will normally be subject to a probationary period of one year.

References & Medical Clearance

All appointments are subject to satisfactory reference and medical checks and individuals will be required to complete a medical assessment form before appointment is confirmed. Applicants should note that the University normally contacts referees for short-listed applicants without further advice to applicants. When advising of referees, if they are resident overseas, please ensure you supply fax numbers and/or email addresses enabling us to contact them (if necessary) without delay.

Right to Work in the United Kingdom

If you do not have the right to work in the UK, this appointment will be subject to the University successfully obtaining a Certificate of Sponsorship under the UK's Points Based System for migrant workers and to you obtaining Entry Clearance/Leave to Remain.

For further information, see the links to the UK Border Agency and UK Visas websites at <http://www.exeter.ac.uk/working/new/international/>. In particular you are encouraged to undertake a self assessment of your eligibility to work in the UK using the link to www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/pointscalculator.

Terms & Conditions

The Terms and Conditions of Employment can be viewed on line by visiting <http://www.exeter.ac.uk/staff/employment/conditions/terms/>

Pensions

Membership of the Universities' Superannuation Scheme (USS) is automatic provided that you meet the qualifying criteria for membership. The USS is a contracted-out scheme. USS scheme has two sections: Final Salary and Career Revalued Benefits; which section you will be eligible for will depend on any previous membership of USS. An information leaflet concerning the qualification rules for both the sections is enclosed; more detailed information about the USS scheme structure can be found at www.uss.co.uk. **IF you have been in USS before, you are strongly requested to contact the Pay and Benefits Office as soon as you can so that possible membership of the Final Salary benefits section can be investigated.** The University, as your employer, contributes such sums as will be required to maintain the full benefits of the scheme. You may opt out of the scheme; if you wish to do so, you should contact the Pay and Benefits Manager, Mrs Alison Rose (01392 263088/email a.j.rose@exeter.ac.uk) for further information. Further information about Pension Salary Exchange is available from the Human Resources website www.admin.exeter.ac.uk/personnel or from the Pensions Office.

Relocation

You may be able to claim relocation expenses in accordance with the University's Relocation Assistance Scheme. The maximum allowance that you can reclaim under the Relocation Assistance Scheme, if eligible, is 10% of salary.

Short-listing Information

We will acknowledge your application by email. The University of Exeter recognises the time and effort taken to apply for a position and will contact you by email to inform you of results of shortlisting

Application Procedure and Interview Information

The closing date for completed applications is **20th June 2013**. Interviews are expected to take place on **1st July 2013**.

Data Protection Act (1998)

The information contained within your application is being requested to enable the University to make employment decisions and meet statutory obligations. Any information provided to the University in this context will be treated confidentially and used only by manager(s), member of the University, Human Resources, Superannuation and Payroll during the course of your employment. Where the application relates to a post which is externally funded this information may be passed onto the relevant funding body.