



THE POST

College:	College of Life and Environmental Sciences
Post:	Postdoctoral Research Associate
Reference No:	P63339
Grade:	E (sp26)
HERA:	ARF
Reporting To:	Dr. Dunia H. Urrego
Responsible For:	Research assistants in the field

The above full-time post is available 1-Sept-2018 in the College of Life and Environmental Sciences.

Job Description

Main purpose of the job:

The Postdoctoral Research Associate will participate in the NERC-AHRC funded project “**BioResilience: Biodiversity resilience and ecosystem services in post-conflict socio-ecological systems in Colombia**”. The project will explore the long-term resilience of Colombian Andean forest ecosystems to environmental and climatic changes and improve understanding of the future implications of forest degradation for Colombian society. The palaeoecology work will focus on establishing ecological baselines for degraded Andean forests in Colombia and assess their resilience to environmental change and human disturbance. This is one of three posts available with the other two focussing on forest ecology and human geography.

Main duties and accountabilities:

1. To undertake research as appropriate to the field of study including:
 - Writing up research work for publication;
 - Developing research objectives and proposals for own or joint research;
 - 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 new research techniques and methods;
 - Using initiative and creativity to identify areas for research, developing new research methods and extending the research portfolio;
 - Using creativity to analyse and interpret research data and draw conclusions on the outcomes.
2. To contribute to teaching and to be involved in the assessment of student knowledge including assisting in the supervision of student projects and in the development of student research skills.
3. 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.
4. To communicate complex information, orally, in writing and electronically.

5. To prepare proposals and applications to external bodies, e.g. for funding and contractual purposes
6. To contribute to the planning of research projects.
7. To use research resources, laboratories and workshops as appropriate and to take responsibility for reducing hazards and for the health and safety of others. Where appropriate, will also be responsible for conducting risk assessments.
8. To monitor research budgets as appropriate.
9. 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.
10. To reconstruct long-term vegetation dynamics in the Colombian Andes using pollen and charcoal records.
11. To analyse the effects of historical fire and climate on forest dynamics, including analysis and interpretation of radiocarbon and stable isotope data.
12. To lead pollen, charcoal, and sediment analyses on lake and soil sediment cores to reconstruct vegetation change and fire regimes over the past 20,000 years from Andean forests.
13. To lead and participate in targeted fieldwork in the Colombian Andes, collecting lake sediment cores and contributing to biodiversity and soil assessments.
14. To liaise closely with the other project's PDRAs to closely integrate long-term ecology, modern ecology and socio-cultural data.
15. To synthesise of data collected under this and other projects under the ColombiaBio programme.
16. To contribute to project websites, outreach activities, and relevant and related teaching

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 Research Fellow role profiles.

Person Specification

Competency	Essential	Desirable
Attainments/Qualifications	PhD or equivalent qualification/experience in palaeoecology.	
Skills and Understanding	<p>Sufficient knowledge in the discipline and of research methods and techniques to work within established research programmes.</p> <p>Experience in multivariate statistics and quantitative analysis of palaeoecological datasets.</p> <p>Ability to manage the day-to-day operation of a research project, including supervision of research students and their training, and planning large-scale field campaigns.</p> <p>Proficiency in Spanish</p>	Evidence of research activity and published research.
Prior Experience	A publication record in long-term vegetation dynamics.	Knowledge of tropical palynology

	Field experience in remote settings	Field experience in tropical South America.
Behavioural Characteristics	<p>Excellent written and verbal communication skills.</p> <p>Able to communicate material of a specialist or highly 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>Able to identify potential sources of funding.</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> <p>Where appropriate to the role, willingness to undergo training in order to conduct risk assessments</p>	
Circumstances	<p>Willing to work flexibly to achieve project demands</p> <p>Ability to travel and spend substantial in the field in Colombia</p>	

Informal Enquiries

Before submitting an application you may wish to discuss the post further by contacting Dr. Dunia H. Urrego, Senior Lecturer, telephone +44 (0)1392 725874 or email d.urrego@exeter.ac.uk.

Terms & Conditions

Our Terms and Conditions of Employment can be viewed [here](#).

Further Information

Please see our [website](#) for further information on working at the University of Exeter.