JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB ROLE: Postdoctoral Research Assistant / Research Assistant

JOB HOLDER: Tba

JOB PURPOSE: Conduct research on marine biodiversity including spatial and temporal analysis, principally with metabarcoding and associated datasets. The jobholder will apply proven practical knowledge and experience of using metabarcoding to assess biodiversity. There will also be opportunity for new sampling including working from a research vessel where appropriate. The jobholder will positively engage in writing publications i.e. producing compete first drafts of manuscripts and support the supervision of other researchers, such as PhD and MRes project students. Work effectively with colleagues and collaborators at the MBA and at partner institutions.

ACCOUNTABILITY:

Essential experience/skills/qualifications:

- PhD or equivalent experience in molecular ecology or molecular microbial ecology or similar
- Experience in the use of DNA/eDNA based metabarcoding approaches to study biodiversity
- Experience of processing raw high-throughput DNA sequence data into workable datasets using contemporary bioinformatics tools (e.g. with DADA2) and to associated data standards
- Experience of writing research publications
- Ability to manage day to day activities
- Ability to communicate results within the Research Team and more widely
- Experience working in a laboratory setting and carry out tasks in compliance with Health and Safety and other relevant Regulations
- To ensure responsibilities identified within internal processes such as Health & Safety Guidelines are robustly met by all Research Team members

Desirable experience/skills/qualifications:

- Experience of fieldwork collecting marine samples (e.g. boat-based sampling, seawater sampling/processing) and associated laboratory work (e.g. DNA/eDNA extraction, DNA quantification, PCR, nanopore DNA sequencing)
- Knowledge of marine plankton diversity and ecology including microbial groups
- Awareness of the application of biodiversity metrics (e.g. 'essential biodiversity variables' (EBVs)) and association with policy and other wider stakeholder related frameworks
- Experience and understanding of working with omics datasets such as genomes/metagenomes and transcriptomes/metatranscriptomes
- Experience of supporting other researchers in metabarcoding data analysis (e.g. PhD students, masters students)

Key responsibilities and skills

- Lead analysis of metabarcoding based datasets to study marine biodiversity
- Effective working with colleagues and collaborators at the MBA and other institutions
- Writing research publications
- Co-supervise other researchers, such as PhD and MRes students
- Working in a laboratory setting and carry out tasks in compliance with Health and Safety and other relevant Regulations
- Undertake ad hoc tasks identified as being within the job holders capabilities