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**PDRA in Environmental Economics**

**Job Description**

**1. Job Details**

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| Job Title: | PDRA in Environmental Economics | Job Family: | Science |
| Line Manager: | PI and Head of SAMS-UNU Institutional Programme | Grade: | 5 |
| Full Time/Part Time: | Full Time – 37hrs per week | Duration of Appointment: | Fixed Term – 12 months |

**2. Job Purpose**

You will support the Lead Principal Investigator in delivering the Global Centre on Biodiversity for Climate (GCBC) Global Seaweed-SUPERSTAR grant, with a specific focus on WP3 (Task 3.4): Upscaling seaweed protection and restoration and identifying sustainable financial solutions.

The role will involve conducting a comprehensive assessment on financial mechanisms that could be used to fund the expansion of seaweed protection and restoration globally, contributing to the UN Seaweed Breakthrough and other high-quality research outputs, including a policy brief, and leading the publication of findings in high-impact journals. You will also represent SAMS at an international workshop in Indonesia in 2026.

**3. Main Responsibilities**

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | *Role Description* | *Approx. %*  *of time* | | Conduct applied research on financing options for upscaling seaweed protection and restoration globally.  Determine the most sustainable, financial solution to upscaling seaweed protection and restoration, using Malaysia as a case study. | 60 | | Publish research as lead author in high-impact journals (x2 papers).  Contribute to the Target 4 (Financial Investment) in the UN Seaweed Breakthrough and a global policy brief to support the global seaweed protection strategy.  Contribute to REF and increasing the reputation of SAMS.  Contribute to IP protection, whenever appropriate. | 20 | | Assist in the preparation of reports, protocols and training material as specified by the SUPERSTAR programme, including text for the UN Seaweed Breakthrough. | 10 | | Present and discuss findings at regular partner project meetings (monthly). | 5 | | Prepare and present an oral presentation at an international workshop, acting as an ambassador for the project and SAMS. | 5 | | Be pro-active in the application and development of SAMS Health and Safety Procedures. | Ongoing | |  |

**4. Planning and Organising**

• Plan and organise high-quality research.

• Liaise with other SUPERSTAR partners (UK and overseas) on related aspects regarding the project.

• Assess project resource requirements.

• Plan the publication strategy for research outputs, including determining target journals, writing manuscripts and coordinating publication with co-authors. Plan applications for future grant rounds and inform other staff of potential grant/bidding opportunities.

• Present current research in specified conference/workshops during the SUPERSTAR programme.

**5. Problem-Solving**

* Meeting project aims within deadlines outlined in the SUPERSTAR proposal, and participating in regular meetings, good management, staff guidance and forward planning.
* Solve problems encountered during the research phase, seeking advice from specialists when needed.
* Present any encountered problems to partners diplomatically, having already discussed and determined a possible appropriate solution with peers.

**6. Decision-Making**

* Take responsibility for research design and execution to meet SUPERSTAR objectives.
* In collaboration with others both at SAMS and funding partners, prioritise own research to achieve a project plan.
* Be self-motivated and able to work without close supervision.

**7. Key Contacts/Relationships**

* Contact with external collaborators, representing SAMS and SUPERSTAR at local, national and international meetings is a key component of the post.
* Discuss experimental findings and new ideas with scientific researchers, programme collaborators and members of industry; to develop our respective research knowledge, agendas and future collaborations.
* Work in synchrony with other PDRAs, the communications team and members of the facilities team to ensure all necessary facilities, project promotion and assessments run smoothly.

**8. Knowledge, Skills and Experience needed for the Job**

Qualifications:

* PhD (or MSc with experience) in relevant subject area (essential).
* Successful prior publication of relevant research in peer-reviewed, high-impact journals (essential).

Relevant experience:

* Understanding of economic mechanisms used for financing conservation/restoration schemes (desirable).

General skills:

* Ability to communicate in English, orally and in writing (essential).
* Ability to work independently and as part of an interdisciplinary team (essential).
* Ability and willingness to learn new skills (essential).
* Excellent interpersonal skills (essential).
* Willingness to travel to international meeting/workshop and for short trips (up to 1 week) (essential).
* Excellent time management and organisational skills (at project level) (essential).

**9. Dimensions – Scope of role**

* Desk-based research, networking activities (at UK and international scale).
* Ability to publish in high-impact journals.
* Ability to work independently and as part of an interdisciplinary team.
* Ability and willingness to learn new skills.
* Excellent interpersonal skills.
* Ability to communicate in English, orally and in writing.
* Willingness to travel to international meeting/workshop.
* Publication of a minimum of 2 papers.

**10. Any other relevant information**

The post holder may be required to perform duties other than those given in the job description for the post. The particular duties and responsibilities attached to posts may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the duties or the level of responsibilities entailed. If the normal duties of the post include going to sea (apart from small boats e.g. RHIB's) the applicant must be able to obtain the ENG1 medical certification and complete the STCW 95 Personal Survival Techniques training.

[What can SAMS offer you?](https://vimeo.com/1090832376/04570b0f9a)

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Our Values and culture

We strive to be a world-class marine science enterprise that underpins regional, national, and international policy, and societal action to secure healthy and sustainable oceans.

As a workforce, we have a strong family and team culture, helping each other to achieve our goals.

Remuneration

We offer a competitive salary and pension as well as employee benefits package. We also have a number of supportive policies to assist absence, family, and other leave types.

Career Goals

SAMS provides a supportive learning and career growth environment for those looking for that next step in their career or upskill in the workplace. This may be through opportunities to develop techniques, learn more about the science objectives for the group, gain some tutorial opportunities, as well as attend meetings and CPD events.

We’ll provide you with a good start as you join SAMS

SAMS provides an excellent induction which is a great introduction to the organisation, the facilities, your department and team, and provides that support that you need over the early months joining a new organisation. We will also provide you with office space, computing equipment and ensure this is ready for you on your first day of work.

Employee Benefits

In addition to a general remuneration package which includes a generous salary, pension, and sickness absence policy, we offer a number of employee benefits to our staff, some of which are listed below:

* Flexible & Hybrid working arrangements (up to 2 days working from home) – will depend on role dynamic.
* Purchase of additional annual leave – up to 20 days per annum
* Access to shopping discounts as well as local shop and leisure discounted memberships
* Cycle to work scheme
* Purchase of technology
* Payroll Giving
* Salary Sacrifice – pensions
* Access to wellbeing portals which provide support for mental health, nutrition and fitness and GP referral scheme
* Occupational health support
* Welfare support on site
* Sabbatical scheme
* A number of training and development courses to assist you with your career development – leadership, coaching and mentoring.
* Free car parking and bicycle sheds
* Electric car charge points on-site

SAMS’ commitment to gender equality has been recognised, as our institute was presented with an Athena SWAN (Scientific Women’s Academic Network) Bronze Award and is currently working towards Investors in Diversity accreditation.

SAMS follows Fair Work Practices.

SAMS is a [Real Living Wage Employer.](https://www.livingwage.org.uk/accredited-living-wage-employers)

As an Academic Partner of the University of the Highlands & Islands (UHI), SAMS is designated as an educational establishment and subject to the provisions of the Protection of Children (Scotland) Act. Certain roles may be subject to a satisfactory check by Disclosure (Scotland) as a condition of their appointment.

Applications must include CV and Cover Letter and should be sent electronically to [recruitment@sams.ac.uk](mailto:recruitment@sams.ac.uk) quoting Job Ref. ‘D07/25.ECC’ in the subject line.

The closing date for applications is 12th August 2025.

Interviews will be held shortly thereafter.

Please note, we prefer to contact referees prior to interview.

Guidance for Applicants

This position unfortunately does not meet the minimum requirements for sponsorship to work in the UK. You must therefore have the rights in place to work in the UK already.

Your application – what are we looking for?

We are looking for a full CV – please remember to document all your relevant work experience, listed with the most recent first. You should also include your educational achievements with your most recent qualification first.  You should include skills and competencies gained from previous employment or education. This should be specific to the job description.  Also, please include details of two referees, one referee at least from your current role, who we may contact if invited for interview.

We enjoy reading cover letters and these are an important part of the application. In the letter, connect your past accomplishments with the requirements listed in the job description. Focus on your most relevant experience, qualifications, and skills. Where possible, quantify your accomplishments with facts and data.

 Useful links

* [How to write a flawless cover letter](https://career-advice.jobs.ac.uk/cv-and-cover-letter-advice/how-to-write-a-flawless-cover-letter-in-2020/) (please right click and select open in new tab)
* [How to write a CV](https://www.reed.co.uk/career-advice/how-to-write-a-cv/) (please right click and select open in new tab)

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