Lecturer (Teaching and Scholarship) in Marine Mammal Ecology and Conservation

School of Biological Sciences

Closing date: 16 November 2021
Interview date: TBC
Reference number: SBS105A
INTRODUCTION

The School of Biological is a vibrant and dynamic centre, internationally renowned for excellence both in teaching and research. Hosting over one hundred academic and research staff, 120 research students, 80 postgraduate taught students and 400 undergraduates; it is a close knit and friendly community. Based on the main campus at Kings College, the School also has facilities at the Cromarty Lighthouse and a presence at the National Decommissioning Centre at Newburgh.

The School is proud of its legacy in delivering research led teaching in fields that include; Biology, Marine Biology, Zoology and Environmental Science. Teaching, training and research in the field highlight the locational advantage of Aberdeen.

The School’s research portfolio is based on four pillars; Evolution, Ecology, Environment and Physiology and investigators are able to and are incentivised to work across these units. This leads to innovative science addressing local, national and international challenges. The School is partner in three Doctoral Training Partnerships (2 NERC funded – QUADRAT & SUPER and 1 BBSRC funded – EASTBIO) and is able to attract the highest quality research students.

The School has excellent molecular biology and analytical chemistry facilities, a Centre for Genome Enabled Biology and Medicine, a proteomics facility, FACS and Histology labs. The School also is home to a research aquarium (freshwater and marine); alongside a challenge facility and a zebrafish aquarium. There are extensive glasshouse research facilities to reflect a range of global climates.

In the last Research Assessment Exercise, the School was confirmed as one of the top UK institutions for research in the biological and environmental sciences. Over 55% of the School’s research activity was graded as being of world leading and internationally excellent in terms of originality, significance and rigour.

A key strength of the School is the breadth of coverage. For example, the pillar of Ecology includes Ocean Biology, Population Ecology, Community Ecology and Animal Behaviour. Physiological areas include Mammalian energetics and Host-Parasite interactions, and the Environmental pillar includes population responses to Environmental Change and research underpinning the sustainable development of offshore renewables. A great deal of research operates alongside stakeholders, and we cooperate closely with Marine Scotland Science, JNCC, NatureScot as well as charities and commercial companies.

Over the last 30 years, the School’s teaching in Marine Mammal Ecology and Conservation has been built upon long-term studies of protected harbour seal and bottlenose dolphin populations in the Moray Firth. This inter-disciplinary programme has been led by Prof Paul Thompson at the Lighthouse Field Station, and continues to involve extensive collaborations, both within Aberdeen and with colleagues at other UK and overseas Institutes. Currently, the programme plays a key role in supporting strategic studies to support the development of offshore renewables and the monitoring of European protected species.
MAIN PURPOSE OF THE ROLE:

The School of Biological Sciences is looking to appoint a part-time Lecturer (Teaching and Scholarship) in Marine Mammal Ecology and Conservation. This is an open ended but funding limited 0.4 FTE post to initiate a succession plan for our commitments in marine mammal biology and conservation. We are seeking a charismatic individual who will consider flexible working and job share to design and deliver teaching and education in this area.

We require an individual who can contribute to the delivery and curriculum of our UG programmes in Marine Biology, Zoology and Conservation Biology, and our PGT programme in Marine Conservation. We are interested in applicants with expertise in marine conservation and marine mammal biology who can facilitate the delivery of existing blended learning materials. You will also work with research and teaching colleagues to develop new learning opportunities around archive datasets and ongoing research. Applicants should have experience or demonstrable potential of coordination of courses and delivery of teaching for undergraduates and taught post-graduates, in the classroom, online and in the field. We welcome applicants with direct experience of working within marine stakeholder organisations or outreach, and an interest in shaping the skillsets of graduates wishing to work in marine conservation.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- To contribute to the delivery, design, development, assessment and administration of undergraduate and postgraduate courses and programmes.
- Co-coordinate ZO5809 Marine Conservation Management
- Contribute to the delivery of field courses in Cromarty and at other sites where required
- Develop and supervise Honours and MSc Projects
- Work with colleagues in the area of marine biology to continue to update the curriculum offering
- Work with colleagues across SBS to integrate marine mammal research outputs and case studies into new material for teaching, outreach and stakeholder engagement.
- Support efforts to maintain and diversify research-led teaching and outreach activities at the Lighthouse Field Station.

CANDIDATE BACKGROUND

Applications are invited from candidates who have specialist knowledge in marine mammal biology and experience of applying this knowledge to marine resource management and/or conservation issues. We are also looking for candidates with either a strong teaching profile in Higher Education or experience within outreach or public engagement that will allow them to develop and deliver inspiring courses for undergraduate and postgraduate students and support activities within Aberdeen’s 2040 strategic themes.
**TERMS OF APPOINTMENT**

This post reflects the implementation of a succession plan for our facility at the Cromarty Lighthouse but we expect the successful candidate to be based in Aberdeen (0.4FTE) for 36 months.

Salary will be at the appropriate point on the Grade 7, £42,149 - £50,296 per annum pro rata and negotiable with placement according to qualifications and experience.

As this post is funded by the Moray East Offshore Windfarm it is available for 36 months.

Any appointment will be made subject to satisfactory references and a probation period.

For further information on various staff benefits and policies please visit [www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here)

This post does not meet the minimum requirements as issued by UK Visas & Immigration (UKVI) to qualify for an employer-sponsored visa. We are therefore unable to consider applications from candidates for this post who require sponsorship to work in the UK.

This role is based in the UK and as such the successful candidate will be required to live and work in the UK.

Due to the nature of the requirements of this post, homeworking is not considered appropriate.

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**AT A GLANCE**

**SALARY:**

Grade 7

£42,149 - £50,296 pro rata per annum

**HOURS OF WORK:**

40% of Full Time

**CONTRACT TYPE:**

Available for 36 months

**LOCATION:**

Aberdeen
# Person Specification

**Education/Qualifications**

**Academic, technical and professional education and training**

- PhD in relevant discipline in Biological Sciences

**Work and Other relevant experience (including training)**

- Strong teaching profile with an ability to develop and deliver inspiring courses to both undergraduate and postgraduate students.
- Experience, or demonstrable potential, in the development of taught courses at undergraduate or postgraduate level, or equivalent experience (commensurate with career stage).
- Specialist knowledge in marine mammal ecology and marine management or conservation.

**Personal qualities and abilities**

- Excellent written, oral and presentation skills.
- Ability to think creatively and innovatively and impart enthusiasm for the subject.
- Excellent organisational skills.
- Ability to balance the pressures of teaching and administrative demands and competing deadlines.
- Demonstrable ability to work well as part of team.
- Ability to work with minimum supervision and act on own initiative.
- Willingness and flexibility to respond to demands of the role.

**Other**

- Teaching qualification, such as Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (FHEA)
- Experience of University teaching, supervision of students at undergraduate and postgraduate levels (commensurate with career stage).
- Experience of working with marine conservation stakeholders and a good understanding of skills and graduate attributes required to succeed in this field.
- Experience of using innovative approaches to teaching across classroom, field and virtual environments.

- Special circumstances (if any) appropriate to the role such as unsocial hours, travelling, Gaelic language requirements etc.
The University of Aberdeen is a broad based, research intensive University, and we put students at the centre of everything we do. Outstanding in a wide range of discipline areas, Aberdeen is credited for its international reach and commercialisation of research ideas into spin out companies. The University has over 16,000 matriculated students and 3,600 staff representing 130 nationalities. We encourage bold thinking, creativity and innovation, and we nurture ambition with many opportunities for professional and personal development in an inclusive learning environment which challenges and inspires.

CURRENT CONTEXT

The University continues to build on its achievements. Underpinning our high performance and significant growth is a £100m investment in Aberdeen’s estate which will include the completion of a new Science Teaching Hub, the regeneration of the historic King’s Quarter and a new Business School building. The University has also invested in 50 new academic posts and in 2020 launched five interdisciplinary, cross-institution Research Centres that will catalyse world-leading research in our areas of strength. Our five Interdisciplinary Challenges are: Energy Transition; Social Inclusion and Cultural Diversity; Environment and Biodiversity; Data and Artificial Intelligence; and Health, Nutrition and Wellbeing.

ABERDEEN 2040

On our 525th anniversary as a University we launched Aberdeen 2040, our strategic vision for the next 20 years. Four strategic themes will shape our learning and discovery, underlined by 20 commitments we have made against each theme:

- **Inclusive**
  We welcome students, staff and partners from all backgrounds, organisations and communities. We value diversity.

- **Interdisciplinary**
  We innovate in education and research by generating, sharing and applying new kinds of knowledge. We learn together.

- **International**
  We connect with others and extend our networks and partnerships around the world. We think across borders.

- **Sustainable**
  We understand and nurture our environment, and take care of our resources, including our people and finances. We work responsibly.
OUR EDUCATION

Recognised as the Scottish University of the Year in the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019, we remain true to our roots as an ancient Scottish university, combining breadth and depth in our degree programmes and drawing strength from the quality of our research. Our flexible curriculum encourages students to grow as independent learners and therefore to thrive as graduates in the diverse workplaces of the future. Our education is open to all and we are setting ambitious targets to further widen access.

OUR RESEARCH

Researchers at the University of Aberdeen have been at the forefront of innovation and excellence throughout the centuries, generating insights in medicine, science, engineering, law, social sciences, arts and humanities. This research has contributed to five Nobel prizes as well as other awards such as the Queen’s Anniversary prize. Our research is intellectually rigorous working within our established areas of excellence as well as new methods of enquiry. We will continue to generate new knowledge addressing economic and societal issues with ambition and imagination, ensuring that it is globally excellent and locally relevant.

INTERNATIONAL

Aberdeen is increasing its international presence, positioning the University as a global organisation and building on established global partnerships in e.g. Qatar, China, North America, Europe. We feature in the top 50 institutions worldwide for international students¹ and have been named 32nd in the world for International Outlook². The University of Aberdeen is proud to be the first UK University to operate on a dedicated campus in Qatar. Phase 1 of this partnership with AFG College has successfully recruited over 600 students. Phase 2 will see the creation of a substantially larger campus, with capacity for at least 5,000 students and research activity. For further information on our Qatar campus visit www.abdn.ac.uk/qatar.

IMPACT

Our dedication to building a sustainable future is reflected in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2021 where we were ranked in the top 60 Universities worldwide for positive impact on society.

In 2020 the University signed the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals accord, solidifying our commitment to developing the world in a sustainable way. In 2021 we were listed in the global Top 50 for 6 of these goals and in the UK Top 20 for all 17³.

¹ Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2021
² QS World University Rankings 2021
³ Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2021
ABERDEEN AND ABERDEENSHIRE

Scotland’s third largest city, Aberdeen sits on the coast between the mountains of Aberdeenshire and the stunning North Sea coastline. The Aberdeen City region is a can-do place that is actively investing, at scale, in its future.

Renowned as a Global Energy Hub, Aberdeen is a vibrant, entrepreneurial region, home to a unique mix of business opportunities and specialist skills across various sectors including energy, technology, life sciences and food & drink. More than 20% of Scotland’s top businesses are located in this region which is taking great strides to ensure that it continues to compete on a world stage. Investments of more than £10 billion of public and private infrastructure is due to be delivered before 2030, marking an exciting time to be part of a genuine world-class location.

Built from sparkling local granite Aberdeen has earned the name of the Silver City. As the energy capital of Europe, Aberdeen nevertheless retains its old-fashioned charm and character making it an attractive place in which to live, work and study. Due to its global business and international energy industry credentials, Aberdeen is well served by local and national transport infrastructure with excellent rail networks that run both North and South of Scotland and the rest of the UK. It also acts as an international travel hub. Flying time to London is just over one hour with regular daily flights and serves international travel to European centres such as Amsterdam (Schiphol) and Paris (Charles de-Gaulle) as well as flights to other European destinations.

The City and the surrounding countryside provide a variety of urban, seaside and country attractions. Aberdeen has first class amenities including His Majesty’s Theatre, Music Hall, Art Gallery, the P&J Arena, Museums, and Beach Leisure Centre. The City is framed by its accessible beach front which is within a short walk of the city centre and there are an array of activities available across the region such as hill walking; mountaineering; sailing; surfing; salmon, trout and sea fishing; golf; sailing; surfing and windsurfing. The surrounding countryside, known as Aberdeenshire, is also one of Scotland’s most appealing regions. Royal Deeside and the Cairngorms National Park are within easy access of the city, and there are a variety of towns and villages scattered along the coastline.

The city and the surrounding area have ranked consistently highly in nationally recognised quality of life surveys, coming out top 10 as one of the best places to live in Scotland in 2020 in the annual Bank of Scotland survey.

To find our more visit www.visitarbn.com
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

The University values a diverse working environment and recognises the benefits this can bring. The University is keen to receive applications from individuals from across all of the equality protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation).

The University supports opportunities for flexible working for a range of reasons and has policies in place to facilitate this. The policies can be found at https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here/flexible-working--5607.php.

The University’s commitment to gender equality has been recognised through the achievement of an Athena SWAN Bronze award at an institutional level and across all its subject areas. The University is also a Stonewall Diversity Champion to further LGBT+ equality.

The University is signed up to Advance HE’s Race Equality Charter, affirming the University’s commitment to the charter’s aim of improving the representation, progression and success of minority ethnic staff and students within higher education.

Candidates who are British Sign Language (BSL) users can contact us directly by using contact SCOTLAND-BSL.

The University is delighted to be accredited as a Disability Confident employer and strives to ensure that disabled staff and students have the opportunity to work and study in an inclusive, accessible and supportive environment.

www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/governance/equality-and-diversity-277

HOW TO APPLY

Online application forms are available at www.abdn.ac.uk/jobs

The closing date for receipt of applications is 16 November 2021

Should you wish to make an informal enquiry please contact:

Professor Michelle Pinard, Director for Education, School of Biological Sciences, m.a.pinard@abdn.ac.uk

Please do not send application forms or CVs Professor Pinard.

Please quote reference number SBS105R on all correspondence