



ASCENSION ISLAND GOVERNMENT

VACANCY NOTICE

DNA Biomonitoring Project Officer

£14,625 per annum, single status, free accommodation plus other benefits

About the role

Do you have a passion for marine conservation? We are looking for a *DNA Biomonitoring Project Officer* to join our Conservation Team. This is an exciting opportunity to deliver a Darwin Plus-funded collaborative project between the Ascension Island Government (AIG) Marine Conservation Team, University of Edinburgh and the Natural History Museum, London, to develop and conduct molecular genetic testing to support ongoing conservation efforts on Ascension Island.

Ascension Island supports a very unique ecosystem including an unknown diversity of marine and terrestrial invertebrates. Accurate identification of these species is essential to determine their distribution, habitat associations and ecological interactions. Distinguishing native from non-native species and identifying the most high risk non-natives is also vital for effective biosecurity responses. Modern molecular techniques will enable this through the development of reference sequence barcodes, analysis tools and provision of training in DNA metabarcoding techniques.

What you'll do

You'll join our small team on Ascension Island and help develop capacity in molecular biomonitoring at our newly-established laboratory. The project officer will work closely with project partners to develop and conduct molecular genetic testing and provide training to support conservation efforts on Ascension Island. Ascension Island is a challenging environment to live and work in, so you will need to be resilient and adaptable in order to thrive.

What you'll bring

We are looking for someone with a background in conservation and well developed molecular skills who holds MSC in Biology, Environmental Science or equivalent vocational experience. You'll have a sound knowledge of molecular techniques, including conducting DNA extraction and PCR. Experience of conducting eDNA metabarcoding workflow and bioinformatics and analysis is also desirable.

What we offer

We are offering a 24 month, single status, contract with a salary of £14,625.00 per year (taxable in Ascension). You will also receive the following benefits:

- Rent free accommodation (with electricity and water allowances)
- A food allowance of £3,350 per year
- Relocation costs for your personal effects
- One mid-contract return journey to your country of recruitment
- 30 days annual holiday (with additional 9 days public holidays)
- Free primary dental and medical care

Closing Date: 1 July 2022, Interviews: Early July 2022 (by Skype if not on island)

Appointment will be subject to satisfactory:

- Enhanced DBS Check
- Employment References
- Medical Clearance

To for more information and to apply for this role, visit: <https://www.ascension.gov.ac/lifestyle-and-employment/working-here/> For more information about the Ascension Island Government Conservation and Fisheries Directorate, or about living and working on Ascension Island, please visit the official website at www.ascension.gov.ac/conservation or find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/AscensionIslandConservation or email: recruitment@ascension.gov.ac