

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENT
FACULTY OF SCIENCE & ENGINEERING
SCHOOL OF NATURAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF EARTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
RESEARCH ASSOCIATE IN MAMMALIAN LOCOMOTOR EVOLUTION
VACANCY REF: SAE-018276

Salary:	£33,309 to £40,927 per annum, depending on relevant experience
Hours:	Full time
Duration:	Fixed Term, from 1 April 2022 until 31 March 2023
Location:	Oxford Road, Manchester

Enquiries about the vacancy, shortlisting and interviews:

Contact: Katrina Jones

Email: Katrina.jones@manchester.ac.uk

BACKGROUND

We seek to appoint a full-time 12-month PDRA to work in the lab of Dr. Katrina Jones (<https://www.katrinaejones.com/>). It will be based in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Manchester, within the Interdisciplinary Centre for Ancient Life – a diverse group of paleobiologists with interests spanning taxa and methodologies (<http://www.ical.manchester.ac.uk/>). The Jones lab specifically focuses on the anatomy and evolution of mammals, and the factors influencing major locomotor transitions. This hire forms part of a Royal Society funded project exploring the evolution of cursoriality in mammals, and particularly the role of the axial skeleton in running.

Overall Purpose of the Job

You will work with the PI to collect and analyze data for the above project, working with zoological and paleontological museum collections and online repositories. The successful candidate will be highly self-motivated, goal-oriented, and organized. Experience of morphological data collection and analysis techniques, such as CT scanning, segmenting, surface scanning, geometric morphometrics, allometry, phylogenetic comparative analysis will be beneficial, and good proficiency in R-programming language is essential. Experience with specimen-based collections research is highly desirable. Excellent written language skills and experience with scientific publication is essential.

This position will offer the successful candidate an excellent opportunity to work in a growing and dynamic lab, and gain experience working with cutting-edge morphological imaging and analysis techniques. Passionate early-career researchers with a desire to understand the macroevolutionary patterns underlying locomotor evolution are encouraged to apply.

The successful candidate must be available to start no later than April 1st 2022 due to funding constraints.

Key Responsibilities, Accountabilities or Duties

The range of duties will include:

- Collect and analyse morphological data pertaining to the above-described research on the evolution of cursoriality in mammals
- Write up research work for publication.
- Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism.
- Translate knowledge of advances in the subject area into research activity.
- Deal with routine communication using a range of media.
- Communicate complex information, orally, in writing and electronically.
- Prepare proposals and applications to external bodies, e.g. for funding and contractual purposes.
- Communicate material of a specialist or highly technical nature.
- Liaise with colleagues and students.
- Manage own research and administrative activities, with guidance if required.
- Work with colleagues on joint projects, as required
- Collaborate with academic colleagues on areas of shared research interest.
- Attend and contribute to relevant meetings.
- Use new research techniques and methods.
- Use initiative and creativity to identify areas for research, develop new research methods and extend the research portfolio.
- Use creativity to analyse and interpret research data and draw conclusions on the outcomes.
- Contribute to collaborative decision making with colleagues in areas of research.
- Use research resources, laboratories and workshops as appropriate.
- Plan and manage own research activity in collaboration with others.
- Balance with help the competing pressures of research and administrative demands and deadlines.
- Be aware of the risks in the work environment and their potential impact on their own work and that of others.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Essential;

- Have, or be about to obtain, a relevant PhD (or equivalent)
- Specialist knowledge in the comparative anatomy, mammalian evolution and paleobiology and/or locomotor evolution
- Experience in research methods and techniques to work within established research programmes, particularly CT scanning, surface scanning, geometric morphometrics, R-

- language programming, comparative morphological analysis (e.g., allometry, phylogenetic comparative methods).
- Strong journal publication record.
 - Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
 - Excellent time management and organisational skills
 - Ability to work independently and as part of a team
 - Ability to liaise confidently and effectively with a range of individuals
 - Flexible approach to dealing with research problems as they arise
 - Willingness to learn and develop
 - Ability to present in both written and oral publications
 - Ability to meet deadlines
 - The ability to evaluate complex data
 - Ability to contribute to broader management and administrative processes.
 - Ability to assess and organise resources
 - Understand equal opportunity issues as they may impact on areas of research content.