Job Description

Position / Job Title:	**Post Doctoral Research Assistant (Fixed-Term) (CRISIS RED ID 15090)**
Location/Building:	**Christchurch House - Talbot Campus**
Faculty/Professional Service:	**Health, Environment and Medical Sciences**
School:	**Life and Environmental Sciences**
Duration if Temporary:	**Fixed Term, 15/02/2027 – 31/03/2029**
Normal Hours per Week:	**37 hours**
(Some flexibility will be required in order to ensure that key time scales and deadlines are met).	
Grade:	**6 (SP 26)**
Accountable to:	**Robert Britton, Professor**

Job Purpose

The post works on the externally funded CRISIS project on critically endangered European eel. The post focuses on the glass eel and elver life stage of eel, involving their sampling from rivers in southwest England (e.g. River Parrett system, Somerset) across time and space, collecting samples for parasitology, diet assessments (including stable isotope ecology) and otolith microstructure, generating daily age data from the collected samples (including dissection, preparation and microscopy), explore opportunities for analysis of otolith microchemistry that will enable the analysis of chemical ratios to provide more precise information on spawning locations and timings of key life events. There is also an important role in working with external project partners and colleagues in RIS to assist project management and to prepare project reports to the funder.

Main Responsibilities

1. Deliver research objectives of proposed work within the timeframes of the project and ensuring the achievement of project outcomes.

2. Plan, design and conduct research on glass eel and elvers in southwest England, including methods to assess temporal and spatial analyses relating to eel age, growth, condition, parasitology, trophic ecology and movements.

3. Write up research work for publication, to include research outputs and reports to the funder.

4. Ensure maintenance of data and records that are appropriate for the work completed and contribute to data sharing initiatives where appropriate.

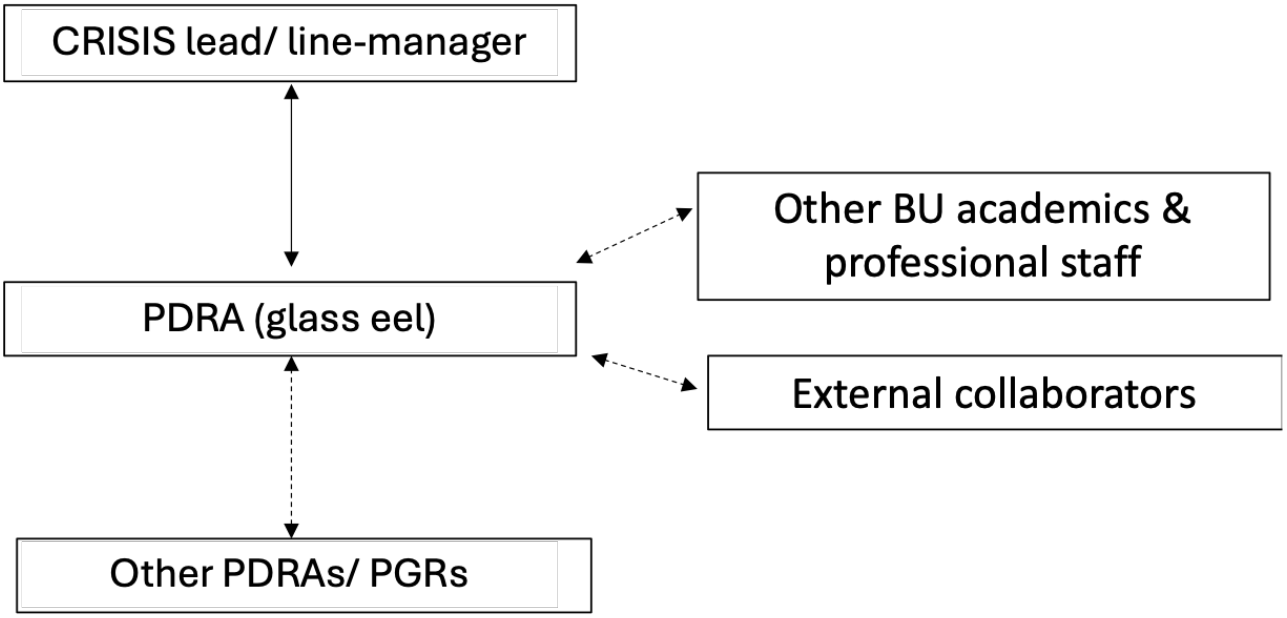
5. Present findings at project meetings and conferences, and other dissemination and knowledge exchange activities.

6. Continue to develop a body of published work and/or artefacts relevant to own discipline both in terms of type and volume.

7. Build relationships with internal colleagues and external project partners to exchange information, publish outputs, develop collaborations, and assist in the preparation of information required for quarterly project claims and project reporting.

8. Undertake personal and professional development activities in line with agreed appraisal and development programme to enhance personal knowledge and contribution to relevant activities.

Organisation Chart (In the chart below: LES: School of Life and Environmental Sciences, BU: Bournemouth University, PDRF: post-doctoral research fellow, PGR: postgraduate researcher. Solid line: line management relationship, dashed line: collaborative relationship



Dimensions

This PDRF post is funded by Natural England through a Species Recovery Programme grant (CRISIS) where Bournemouth University is the project lead. The core project team comprises of the supervisor/ line manager and the PDRA, but the wider team involves colleagues in RIS, other PDRAs working on European eel and CRISIS project parters, and the Environment Agency.

Contacts:

Internal: LES/ BU academic collaborators, technical and support staff within the university

External: CRISIS project partners, Natural England, Environment Agency

Challenges What are the most difficult, complex or challenging parts of the job

The most complex part of the job relates to balancing the technical challenges of collecting and analysing samples of glass eel and elvers while also providing support to the project relating to administration and reporting.

Information Governance Responsibilities

Data User

i. Comply with the associated data protection, information security, information management and information technology regulations, policies, processes and procedures.

Safeguarding and Regulated Activity

If the role involves engaging in regulated activity relevant to vulnerable groups including children and disabled adults, it is an offence to apply for and perform the role, if a person is bared from engaging in regulated activity.

Further information is available in BU's Safeguarding Policy and Suitability Statement on the Recruitment and Employment of Ex-offenders.

Additional Information

The purpose of the job description is to indicate the general level of responsibility and location of the position. The duties may vary from time to time without changing their general character or level of responsibility.

BU is an equal opportunities employer which values a diverse workforce. The post holder must at all times carry out their responsibilities with due regard to the University's Dignity, Diversity and Equality Policy Statement.

Our highly skilled and creative workforce is comprised of individuals drawn from a broad cross section of the globe, and who reflect a variety of backgrounds, talents, perspectives and experiences to build our global learning community. Through fused activity, the post holder must have an understanding of and commitment to promoting a global outlook.

All employees have an obligation to be aware of the University's Sustainability Policy, Climate and Ecological Crisis Action Plan, Travel Plan and associated documents, and to ensure that they carry out their day-to-day activities in an environmentally responsible manner and inspire students to do the same.

October 2026

Person Specification

Position / Job Title: Post Doctoral Research Assistant (Fixed-Term) Position No: TBC	Faculty: HEMS/ Life and Environmental Sciences Date: October 2026

SELECTION CRITERIA	**E**ssential / **D**esirable
Knowledge (including experience & qualifications)	
Expertise in glass eel and elver – achieve a doctoral qualification (or close to completion)	**E**
Knowledge in working on glass eel and elver using a range of analytical methods	**E**
Experience of using a range of methods for analysing otoliths, including sufficient experience of preparing otoliths for analysis of microstructure.	**E**
Expertise in project administration and reporting to funders	**D**
Experience of publishing research outputs	**E**
Experience of presenting research within and beyond academia	**D**
Experience in collaboration with researchers from other disciplines	**D**
Familiar with current developments in research and scholarship with ability to identify appropriate research options, methods and theoretical perspectives	**E**
Skills	
Ability to analyse ecological data relating to glass eel and elvers	**E**
Excellent communication skills, both orally and in writing, and the ability to communicate research findings to different audiences.	**E**
Strong organisational skills	**E**
Strong writing abilities	**E**
Effective team working skills	**E**
Ability to reason accurately and quickly and handle complex situations.	**E**
Ability to work with project partners to prepare project reporting and claim information	**D**
Attributes	
Analytical	**E**
Collegiate	**E**
Commitment to high quality research	**E**
Initiative	**E**
High level of attention to detail	**E**
Motivated to succeed	**E**