

**Postdoctoral Researcher in Environmental
or Social Science**



*Salary £26,537 – £31,656 per annum
Fixed term appointment for 21.5 months*

Applications are invited for a marine or social scientist to support development and implementation of projects in the fields of aquaculture and marine renewables.

The position would suit a natural scientist with some experience or knowledge of interactions with society and the environment or a social scientist with a good grasp of marine science. The successful candidate will ideally be able to demonstrate prior experience in data gathering, project development and stakeholder engagement.

Candidates will have a PhD in a social or environmental science discipline. Interdisciplinary social/natural science backgrounds/interests are also welcome.

SAMS is an independent and dynamic institution - the largest of its kind in Scotland - developing quality research, teaching and commercial activities in superb modern facilities. It is a founding partner of the University of the Highlands and Islands.

For general enquiries about the position please contact
Professor Kenny Black Kenny.Black@sams.ac.uk

Further information is available on line at www.sams.ac.uk. Alternatively, please write to: Human Resources, Postdoctoral Researcher in Environmental or Social Science, Job Ref D05/15.KB, The Scottish Association for Marine Science, Scottish Marine Institute, Oban, Argyll PA37 1QA or e-mail recruitment@sams.ac.uk

*The closing date for receipt of applications is **Friday 29th January 2016**
Interviews will be held **Monday 8th February 2016***

[w. merikafp7.eu](http://w.merikafp7.eu)

[e. merikafp7@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:e.merikafp7@uhi.ac.uk)

[@merikafp7](https://twitter.com/merikafp7)



The MERIKA Project has received funding from the European Union Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013) under grant agreement no. 315925

This post is funded by the European Union Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013) SP4 Capacities FP7 REGPOT 2012-2013-1 Grant Agreement number 315925

SAMS is a registered Scottish charity (SC 009206), has an equal opportunities policy and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

Job Description

1. Job Details

Job Title:	Postdoctoral Researcher in Environmental or Social Science	Department:	Ecology
Line Manager:	PI Ecosystem Services Group		
Full Time/Part Time (no. of hrs for part time)	Full Time	Duration of appointment	21.5 months

2. Job Purpose

To support research projects in aquaculture/renewables/society interactions.

3. Main Responsibilities

<i>(Normally between 4 and 10. Percentages should total at least 95% (and no more than 100%))</i>	Approx. % of time
Support development of new research projects at SAMS in the area of aquaculture and renewables	40
Develop and deliver project tasks	40
Build links with other project partners and stakeholders	10
Publish research in high impact journals	10

4. Planning and Organising

- With the PI, develop high quality research and, as appropriate to the field, project manage the research activity and taking responsibility for the research team's activities
- Implement and deliver project tasks described within the MERIKA (Year 1) and Aquaspace (Year 2) projects

5. Problem-Solving

- Contribute to internal and external research partner input into projects
- Providing support to PI and colleagues as appropriate

6. Decision-Making

- Assessing resource requirements, securing and organising resources effectively
- Peer review of research publications and proposals

7. Key Contacts/Relationships

- Develop and manage relationships within SAMS and with relevant external organisations in the public, private or voluntary sector
- With the PI represent SAMS in the field and in research networks involving peers locally, nationally and further afield

8. Knowledge, Skills and Experience needed for the Job (usually captured in Person Specification)

Essential:

- PhD in social or marine science discipline
- Evidence of communication skills (oral and written)
- The ability to attend on a regular basis and cope with the demands of the job.
- Willingness to travel internationally.

Desirable

- Experience of managing projects, budgets, and students
- Experience of effective engagement and interaction with internal and external partners and stakeholders
- Experience of working in interdisciplinary teams
- Experience in outreach (including the public media)

9. Dimensions – Scope of role

- Contributing to funding proposals led by principal investigator
- Organising and engaging in international exchanges
- Produce high impact publications

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.

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Further information for candidates

Background to The Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS)

SAMS is an independent, not-for-profit, marine research institute based three miles outside of the scenic west coast town of Oban, two hours north of Glasgow. Founded in 1884 by Sir John Murray, SAMS is Scotland's oldest oceanographic institution and is governed as a learned society. SAMS currently employs around 155 staff and has around 300 members.

SAMS is a company limited by guarantee (SC009292) and a charitable organisation (009206) registered in Scotland. It is a partner of the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI), the Natural Environment Research Council, the Marine Alliance for Science and Technology for Scotland (MASTS), the United Nations University, and the University of the Arctic.

The SAMS mission is to deliver world-class marine science that supports society with innovative solutions to developing a sustainable relationship with the marine environment. SAMS is an international marine research institute working on multi-disciplinary research themes that investigate topics including marine renewable energy, Arctic Seas, dynamic ocean processes and society and the sea.

The Laurence Mee Centre (LMC) for Society and the Sea, one of the three new research and innovation centers initiated by SAMS in 2014, links together research in the social and natural sciences around the key themes of coastal communities, ecosystem services, and marine and coastal policy and planning. The LMC also links into the Society, Identity, Landscape Knowledge (SILK) research cluster within UHI which links social scientists and humanities scholars from a broad range of backgrounds.

SAMS provides innovative higher education degrees and short training courses. Currently we educate around 90 undergraduate students, 5 Masters students and 30 PhD students. The SAMS Centre for Field Studies provides courses and facilities for visiting groups from universities, business and special interest organisations. Social science and policy modules are taught as part of our BSc in Marine Science, MSc in Ecosystem Based Management, our Social Science summer school for the IDCORE Renewable Energy doctoral training programme, our Aquaculture, Environment and Society (ACES) Erasmus Mundi MSc, and through PhD supervision.

We also provide a multitude of services to business through a wholly owned subsidiary company, SAMS Research Services Limited (SRSL), and are home to the European Centre for Marine Biotechnology as a business incubator facility with tenant companies.

To deliver our research and education activities we are supported by outstanding facilities, capabilities and infrastructure, including two coastal research vessels, a significant research aquarium, the Culture Collection of Algae and Protozoa, the National Facility for Scientific Diving, the Centre for Smart Observations, conference facilities, modern and well-equipped research and teaching laboratories. Since 2013 we also have a visitor facility with shop and café: the Ocean Explorer Centre.

Oban is a major West Highland centre, convenient for mountains, lochs and sea. It is about two hours by road from Glasgow, and is well served by rail, road and ferry links. A small airport is operated from Connel.

Our geographical situation allows unprecedented access to a variety of marine environments.

For further information, please visit our website www.sams.ac.uk

Conditions of Service

The post is full time and for a fixed term period of up to 15 months and will be based at the Scottish Marine Institute near Oban. The post sits in our Research, Education & Enterprise job family and is Grade 5 level. Salary range is £26,537 to £31,656 per annum depending on experience.

The normal working hours of the Institute are 0845 to 1300 hrs and 1400 to 1709 hrs, Monday to Friday.

The leave allowance for a full leave year is 35.5 days which includes both annual leave and public & privilege holidays. SAMS also offers a generous pension scheme and employee benefits package.

SAMS has a sick leave policy in place.

As an Academic Partner of UHI, SAMS is designated as an educational establishment and subject to the provisions of the Protection of Children (Scotland) Act. All staff will be subject to a satisfactory check by Disclosure (Scotland) as a condition of their appointment.

The Area

The Scottish Marine Institute occupies a very pleasant site on a peninsula three miles north of Oban, accessible via the village of Dunbeg. Oban is a major West Highland centre, convenient for mountains, lochs and sea. It is about two hours by road from Scottish cities such as Glasgow, Stirling and Perth, and is well served by rail and road links, as well as being the hub for ferry connections to many of the offshore islands.

SAMS has free onsite parking, a regular bus service and there is an award winning nursery adjacent to SAMS buildings. Local primary schools are located in the town of Oban as well as local villages and there is a high school in the centre of Oban.

Candidates can apply online by visiting: www.sams.ac.uk

Or

By sending a CV and cover letter to:

The Human Resources Section
Postdoctoral Researcher in Environmental or Social Science, D05/15.KB
The Scottish Association for Marine Science
Scottish Marine Institute
Oban Argyll
PA37 1QA

Or by email to recruitment@sams.ac.uk

The closing date for applications is **Friday 29th January 2016**. Please note, referees will be contacted prior to interview.

Interviews will be held **Monday 8th February 2016**.