Vacancy reference: NHM/ESR/GS
Location: South Kensington
Employment type: Externally funded
Job family:
Area of business: Science
Closing date: 01/11/2011

Role description: The Department of Palaeontology is looking to recruit an early stage researcher (ESR) to perform independent scientific research within a larger research network focused on investigating the origins of fundamental tissue systems and life cycles in plants. PLANTORIGINS-ITN is a network of universities, research institutes and industrial partners in Oxford and London (UK), Prague(Czech Republic), Lisbon and Alcabideche (Portugal), and Münster (Germany). Our overarching research aim is to understand how basic organs and tissues systems in plants evolved and their genetic regulatory basis. The network integrates expertise in plant morphology, palaeobotany, phylogenetics and developmental genetics. The ESR will benefit from training across this broad range of disciplines, inter-laboratory exchanges and workshops. You will participate directly in a part of the programme aimed at researching organ systems in exquisitely preserved 400 million year old fossils from the Rhynie Chert. These fossils are among the oldest known land plants and some of the best preserved. You will be required to prepare, mount, and analyse thick and thin sections of cherts for specimen documentation. Duties will also include critical analysis of fossil tissues and the preparation of data for the publication of results. The successful candidate will have the ability to perform independent research and will have previous experience of working with natural history collections. A Diploma, Masters Degree (or equivalent) in Geology, Biology or a related discipline is essential. Candidates must be within 4 years of graduating and must not possess a PhD. Marie Curie Actions eligibility requirements apply. Candidates must be nationals of an EU country other than the country of the host organisation where they will carry out the project, and they must not have resided in the host country for more than 12 months in the previous 3 years prior to date of selection by the host institute. Salary: £28,099 per annum plus benefits Contract: 27 month fixed term appointment Closing date: Tuesday 1 November 2011

Knowledge, skills and experience: •Diploma, Masters Degree, or equivalent in Geology, Biology or related discipline
•Must satisfy Marie Curie programme mobility requirements
•The ability to perform independent scientific research
•Demonstrable ability to use standard MS Office software (or equivalent) including Word and Excel
•Demonstrable interest in questions related to plant evolution and fossil materials
•Previous experience of working with natural history collections
•Experience of using rock saws and making thin sections (desirable)
•Good command of written and spoken English
•Presentation skills: the ability to present information to specialist and more general audiences
•Interpersonal skills: the ability to work productively as part of a team
•Familiarity with phylogenetic software is desirable

Application questions: Having read the selection criteria detailed in the job description for this post, can you please provide specific examples from your work experience, achievements, knowledge and/or skills that demonstrate how you meet each of the criteria listed, point by point.

Applications through our website here:

https://nhm.irecruittotal.com/CONFIG/NHM/StaticPages/CAC/SearchVacancy.aspx?EmploymentTypeID=0&Intranet=0