



<b>Job title</b>	Research Associate/Fellow	<b>Job family and level</b>	Research and Teaching Level 4 (Appointment will be Level 4 Career training grade where an appointment is made before PhD has been completed)
<b>School/ Department</b>	School of Biosciences/ Agricultural and Environmental Sciences	<b>Location</b>	Sutton Bonington Campus

## Purpose of role

The role is centred on testing the key prediction of the seminal Alvarez et al. (1980) publication on the Cretaceous Palaeogene (K/Pg) mass extinction event. It will deliver a framework that will allow us to estimate the duration of environmental and biological consequences of the ensuing impact 'winter' via the chemical analysis of fern spores from the fern spore spike. Chemical analysis will be based around using FTIR imaging.

	<b>Main responsibilities</b> (Primary accountabilities and responsibilities expected to fulfil the role)	<b>% time per year</b>
1	<b>Data collection and analysis</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Chemical analysis and interpretation of fossil spore chemistry using FTIR.</li> <li>▪ Morphological and taxonomic analysis and interpretation of pollen and spore taxa.</li> </ul>	60%
2	<b>Communication</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Report (as required) with the PI and colleagues in the project team (Wes Fraser Oxford Brookes, Luke Mander Open University, Phil Jardine Munster) and liaise with the wider project group.</li> <li>▪ Draft papers and deliver conference presentations.</li> <li>▪ Draft press releases.</li> </ul>	30%
3	<b>Personal and Institutional Development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop personal training needs document and engage with appropriate training activities</li> <li>▪ General assistance with the running of the lab and assistance with the supervision of post graduate students and undergraduate students allied to experience</li> </ul>	10%

## Person specification

	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>
<b>Skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Transmitted light microscopy</li> <li>▪ Pollen and spore taxonomy and identification</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Operation of (geo)chemical laboratory equipment</li> <li>▪ Laboratory techniques for releasing fossil and modern pollen and spores from rock samples and herbarium sheets</li> <li>▪ The ability to analyse large datasets.</li> </ul>
<b>Knowledge and experience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Morphology of pollen and spores</li> <li>▪ Palaeoecology of ancient vegetation using palaeontological data.</li> <li>▪ Cretaceous/Paleogene angiosperm pollen and spore taxonomy and identification <b>or</b> experience in chemical methods for characterising sporopollenin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Laboratory experience of operating (geo)chemical equipment</li> <li>▪ Fieldwork to gather rock specimens from stratigraphic successions</li> <li>▪ The ability to write papers/give conference talks.</li> </ul>
<b>Qualifications, certification and training (relevant to role)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Undergraduate degree in a relevant discipline</li> <li>▪ PhD (completed or near-completed) in a relevant discipline</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Training in microscopy would be an advantage</li> </ul>



The University of Nottingham is focused on embedding equality, diversity and inclusion in all that we do. As part of this, we welcome a diverse population to join our work force and therefore encourage applicants from all communities, particularly those with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

## Expectations and behaviours

The University has developed a clear set of core expectations and behaviours that our people should be demonstrating in their work, and as ambassadors of the University's strategy, vision and values. The following are essential to the role:

- Valuing people** Is friendly, engaging and receptive, putting others at ease. Actively listens to others and goes out of way to ensure people feel valued, developed and supported.
- Taking ownership** Is clear on what needs to be done encouraging others to take ownership. Takes action when required, being mindful of important aspects such as Health & Safety, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, and other considerations.
- Forward thinking** Drives the development, sharing and implementation of new ideas and improvements to support strategic objectives. Engages others in the improvement process.
- Professional pride** Is professional in approach and style, setting an example to others; strives to demonstrate excellence through development of self, others and effective working practices.
- Always inclusive** Builds effective working relationships, recognising and including the contribution of others; promotes inclusion and inclusive practices within own work area.

## Key relationships with others



