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| **Position Title**  | Research Fellow(3 positions) |
| **Classification**  | Academic Level B |
| **School/Division** | School of Biological Science |
| **Centre/Section** | Minderoo UWA Deep-Sea Research Centre (MUDSRC  |
| **Supervisor Title**  | Professor and MUDSRC Director |
| **Supervisor Position Number**   | FSR 319400 |
| **Position Number** | FSR 319780 |

**Your work area**

The University of Western Australia and Minderoo Foundation joined forces in 2021 to establish a world leading deep-ocean research centre, to increase understanding about the deepest parts of the ocean - The Minderoo UWA Deep-Sea Research Centre – that is supported with a major five-year grant from Minderoo Foundation’s Flourishing Oceans initiative. This collaboration aims to comprehensively explore the deepest areas; mapping the ocean floor, characterising and discovering new species, assessing marine biodiversity and charting deep-sea habitats, with a focus on abyssal plains and hadal subduction trenches.

The new Deep Sea Research Centre is housed within the School of Biological Sciences – a large, multidisciplinary School with research and teaching focused on understanding and conserving life on Earth. Understanding and communicating the vulnerabilities, adaptability and resilience of plants and animals on land and in our rivers and oceans helps to better value and protect the biodiversity around us. The School of Biological Sciences is a large, multidisciplinary School with over 80 high-caliber staff delivering world-class education and research programs to approximately 600 undergraduate and postgraduate coursework students and is responsible for the supervision of ~100 PhD students. The School is research-intensive with expertise in the disciplines of Computational Biology, Ecology & Conservation, Evolutionary Biology, Neuroscience and Science Communication.

**Reporting structure**

Reports to: Professor & MUDSRC Director

**Your role**

As the appointee, you will implement a research program centred around the biodiversity, habitats, and biological adaptations at abyssal depths (3000-6000 m) and hadal depths (>6000 m), including plains, trenches and fracture zones. Research areas may include, but are not limited to, integrative taxonomy, phylogenetics, population dynamics, depth distribution, abotiic interactions, and functional ecology. Additionally, this Fellow will set these research findings in a global context to understand how the deep biodiversity compares, contrasts, and connects with hadal and abyssal communities worldwide.

You will be part of a multi-disciplinary team of ecologists, biologists and geologists, underpinned by state-of-the-art deep-sea technology. In this role you will identify and engage with opportunities for collaborative research within MUDSRC, and other academic institutions, nationally and internationally, to improve our knowledge of deep-sea environments worldwide. You will work with internal and external collaborators across multiple disciplines to identify research needs and funding opportunities to deliver world-class scientific discovery and exploration. You will be co-supervised, guided and mentored by UWA supervisors to ensure research productivity is maximised and milestones are met.

**Your key responsibilities**

Develop and implement a research program to acquire, analyse and interpret biological data from abyssal and hadal communities and identify and quantify trends, patterns and connectivity.

Effective project management including procurements and logistics of expeditions

Safe and effective clean laboratory practise, including effective data curation, quality control and archiving.

Assistance in operating and maintaining scientific equipment including deep-sea landers and hydrographic instrumentation.

Promote research projects via timely publication of research papers and presentations at international conferences and workshops

Supervise and assist with the training of research students

Participate in research activities and contribute to/organize group projects, workshops and other processes

Other duties as directed

**Your specific work capabilities (selection criteria)**

PhD and preferably postdoctoral experience demonstrating substantive work on marine and deep-sea biology.

Knowledge and skills to lead and implement a biological-based research program to understand the connectivity and environments of hadal and abyssal features at multiple scales

Experience planning and implementing scientific field work including reporting and effective data archiving

Knowledge, skills, and experience operating marine equipment and data collection in the field

Established or emerging reputation for research excellence and academic achievement relative to career stage and opportunity as evidenced by publication history

Team player with exceptional interpersonal skills able to foster an atmosphere of innovation, creativity, and excellence among others

Ability to engage, communicate, build relationships, and negotiate with a diverse group of people, including local and international scientists, ship crew and students

Superior written and oral communication skills

Demonstrative experience with interpretation analysis and modelling

**Special requirements (selection criteria)**

Significant overseas travel will be required

Ability to perform field work at sea for extended periods of time will be required

Occasional interstate and intrastate travel may be required

Regular shift-work, including occasional weekend and after-hours work

Driver’s licence is preferred

Able to fit the physical requirements of the position

**Compliance**

Ensure you are aware of and comply with legislation and University policy relevant to the duties undertaken, including:

The University’s Code of Conduct [hr.uwa.edu.au/policies/policies/conduct/code/conduct](https://www.hr.uwa.edu.au/policies/policies/conduct/code/conduct)

Inclusion and Diversity [web.uwa.edu.au/inclusion-diversity](https://www.web.uwa.edu.au/inclusion-diversity)

Safety, health and wellbeing [safety.uwa.edu.au/](https://www.safety.uwa.edu.au/)