



Fully Funded MRes Scholarship EU/UK applicants

eDNA and River Continuity

Swansea University
Centre for Sustainable Aquatic Research (CSAR)

Research project: Ground truthing barrier impacts for more efficient restoration of natural capital in the River Afan.

Keywords: Stream fragmentation, Stream restoration, eDNA, Citizen science

Location: Swansea

Salary: £11,702 p.a.

Hours: Full Time

Contract Type: Fixed-Term/Contract

Closing date: 15th November 2019

Start date: 1 April 2020

Healthy rivers are flowing rivers, as river health depends on having well connected habitats. Loss of connectivity is one of the main threats to the ecosystem services and natural capital provided by rivers, but accurate data on the number of stream barriers and the extent of river fragmentation are difficult to obtain and are generally lacking.

This study will make use of a recently developed smartphone app (barrier tracker) and the help of volunteers to map the location of all barriers on the Afan catchment, and use eDNA to assess their impact on migratory Atlantic salmon and brown trout. It will also attempt to test the efficiency of existing fish passes using a novel semi-quantitative eDNA approach developed in Swansea as part of the EU-funded AMBER project (www.amber.international).

Based at the [Centre for Sustainable Aquatic Research \(CSAR\)](#), this is a collaborative project with Natural Resources Wales, Dwr Cymru Welsh Water, Andrew Scott Ltd, and the Afan Valley Angling Club.

Academic requirements: Candidates should have a 2.1 or above (>65%) in their undergraduate degree in Biosciences or a related subject.

Residency criteria: Due to funding restrictions, this scholarship is open to UK/EU candidates only.

To Apply: Send a 2-page CV and a one-page motivation letter by email to c.garciadeleaniz@swansea.ac.uk