



## POSITION DESCRIPTION

<b>Job Title:</b>	<b>Research Assistant</b>
<b>Type of Employment:</b>	Full time, fixed term 6 month appointment, with the possibility of extension, subject to funding.
<b>Remuneration:</b>	\$73,611 p.a. plus superannuation and leave loading
<b>Closing Date:</b>	5 pm, 26/3/19
<b>Further Information:</b>	Dr Maria Vozzo, <a href="mailto:maria.vozzo@sims.org.au">maria.vozzo@sims.org.au</a>

## BACKGROUND

The Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS) is a multidisciplinary marine research institute formed as a partnership of four universities (Macquarie University, University of Sydney, University of NSW and the University of Technology Sydney). Its laboratories are situated in Mosman. This collaborative venture enables marine scientists and students in Sydney and NSW to investigate links between nearshore marine environments, urban harbours, fisheries and marine biodiversity.

The Living Seawalls collaboration is a flagship project of the Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS), that is investigating methods to enhance the ecological value of artificial structures in the marine environment, such as seawalls and pilings. The Living Seawalls project builds on decades of Sydney-based marine green engineering research.

In the current phase, the team are scaling-up green engineering initiatives by retrofitting existing seawalls with habitat enhancing tiles on the scale of tens of meters. We are seeking a Research Assistant (RA) to assist with laboratory and field-based work as part of the ongoing monitoring of seawall installations. The RA will primarily conduct laboratory sample processing and fieldwork in Sydney Harbour, and will be based at SIMS in Mosman, NSW.

# DUTY STATEMENT

## Primary Purpose of Position

To organise and conduct laboratory-based sample processing and fieldwork as part of a monitoring program for the Living Seawalls project. This position will also involve the supervision of interns and undergraduate students assisting with field and labwork, as required.

## Key Responsibilities

- Work with the scientific leadership team of Living Seawalls to develop laboratory and field protocols and QA/QC.
- Organize fieldtrips and conduct field sampling of the structure and function of ecological communities establishing on and around Sydney Harbour seawalls.
- Identify and enumerate marine invertebrates, macroalgae and fish in the laboratory and in the field.
- Develop and work to a schedule for sample processing. This will include regular communication with supervisors about the status of sample processing.
- Enter and check data.
- Assist with the preparation of research reports and permit applications.
- Oversee and manage interns and undergraduate students also working on the project in both the laboratory and field.
- Cooperate with all health and safety policies and procedures of SIMS and affiliated universities, and take all reasonable care to ensure that their actions or omissions do not impact on the health and safety of others.
- Ensure that the work for which they are responsible is carried out in ways that safeguard the health and safety of staff, volunteers or students in their charge and visitors.

## Reporting Relationship

Dr Maria Vozzo (SIMS) will be responsible for the day to day supervision of the Research Assistant. The RA will also be supervised by and report to Dr Mariana Mayer Pinto (UNSW), Dr Katherine Dafforn (MQU & SIMS) and A/Prof Melanie Bishop (MQU).

## SELECTION CRITERIA

### Essential Criteria

- Previous experience with marine intertidal ecology, field- and lab-based research;
- Ability to work independently, with minimal supervision, and as part of a group;
- Excellent organizational and time management skills;
- Understanding of and commitment to QA/QC;
- Well-developed interpersonal skills;
- Willingness to work some early mornings or late nights, where fieldwork requires it;
- Current driving licence;
- Understanding of and commitment to occupational health and safety and equity practices; and the ability to apply them in the workplace;
- Ability to start immediately.

### Desirable Criteria

- Degree in Marine Biology or a related discipline;
- Knowledge of marine invertebrate, algal and fish taxonomy;
- Experience processing invertebrate samples in the laboratory;
- Experience processing GoPro footage of fish;
- Experience conducting fieldwork in a diversity of intertidal and shallow subtidal environments;
- Experience organising fieldwork trips and managing fieldwork teams;
- Current NSW boat licence.

## APPLICATION

Applications must consist of the following:

- **Covering Letter.** The covering letter should include your email or postal address and telephone number. This is an opportunity in not more than one page to introduce yourself and outline the key reasons why you should be considered for the role.
- **Curriculum Vitae or Resume.** This is a history of your education, research, employment and experience that covers the following areas:
  - Educational qualifications that detail the full title of the qualification, year attained and title of the institution attended.
  - Research projects on which you have participated, in what capacity that was, and any outputs that emanated from that research.
  - Employment history in chronological order, starting with the most current position and specifying dates of employment, title of position, name of employer, main duties or accountabilities and achievements.
  - The names and contact details (preferably phone & email) of three referees, including if possible a senior person (preferably your supervisor) closely associated with your current position.
- **Selection Criteria.** A statement addressing how you meet each of the selection criteria is required to assist the Selection Committee to determine whether you have the relevant qualifications, knowledge/skills, experience and personal qualities. **This should be no more than 3 pages in length.**

**Applications are to be sent to:**

Dr Maria Vozzo  
[maria.vozzo@sims.org.au](mailto:maria.vozzo@sims.org.au)

### Selection Process

A Selection Committee will consider all applications and shortlist for interview candidates who appear to meet the selection criteria at the highest levels. They will be invited to attend an interview and the remaining unsuccessful applicants will be notified accordingly.