

Research Technician in Behavioural Ecology and Environmental Change

*Animal Behaviour and Environmental Change lab (ABECLab),
CEAB-CSIC, Blanes, Catalunya, Spain*



Description of the call

We are seeking candidates for a research technician position within the Animal Behaviour & Environmental Change Lab (ABECLab) at CEAB-CSIC. The position is embedded in the DRYFISH project, which investigates how animal behaviour, particularly freshwater fish behaviour, responds to environmental change, with a strong focus on stream drying, habitat fragmentation, and changing water availability in Mediterranean river systems.

The research combines intensive fieldwork in intermittent streams, laboratory experiments, animal husbandry, and quantitative data analysis. The technician will play a central and active role in the project, working closely with the PI, students, and collaborators, and supporting multiple research activities within the lab. The position is well suited for a proactive and versatile researcher who enjoys hands-on work, takes initiative, and contributes broadly to the research process, from data collection and experimentation to scientific outputs and dissemination.

Tasks to be performed

The selected candidate will combine field, laboratory, and research support tasks, which may include:

- **Fieldwork:** Environmental monitoring of drying streams, fish population sampling, fishing surveys, and behavioural observations and experiments in natural refuge pools (mainly in the Alta Garrotxa region).
- **Laboratory work:** Maintenance of experimental fish facilities, feeding and tank care, support for laboratory and field experiments, and assistance in building and adapting experimental setups.
- **Data management and analysis:** Organisation, processing, annotation, and analysis of data, including behavioural scoring and video annotation, using tools such as R, Python, and GIS, depending on experience.
- **Research support and dissemination:** Support for literature searches, preparation of figures and reports, contribution to scientific manuscripts where relevant, and occasional support for outreach and communication activities (e.g. social media).

The work is active and sometimes physically demanding, particularly during summer field campaigns, and may require flexible working hours. The ability to work independently, take responsibility for assigned tasks, and work both autonomously and as part of a team is essential.



Research environment

The Animal Behaviour & Environmental Change lab (ABEClab) is an international and interdisciplinary research group led by Dr Jolle Jolles at CEAB-CSIC. The lab studies animal behaviour across ecological contexts, from individual decision-making to social processes, with a strong focus on environmental change. Research integrates field studies, laboratory experiments, quantitative analyses, and custom-built monitoring and tracking approaches within a collaborative and dynamic research environment. Examples of ongoing work can be found at: [instagram.com/jollewjolles](https://www.instagram.com/jollewjolles).

Professional profile

Essential requirements:

- MSc degree in ecology, biology, environmental sciences, or a closely related field (in special cases this can be exempt).
- Experience with fieldwork and/or laboratory experiments in ecology or animal behaviour.
- Valid driving licence.
- Residence in the area or willingness to relocate (fieldwork in Alta Garrotxa; laboratory facilities in Blanes).

Other desirable qualifications:

- Experience with data processing or analysis in R, Python, and/or GIS.
- Proficient use of English (Catalan and Spanish are also spoken in the group)
- Strong interest in continuing an academic research career (e.g. pursuing a PhD or postdoctoral position or applying for competitive grants together).
- Familiarity with Mediterranean freshwater systems or local experience in the region.
- Ability to work independently, take responsibility, and manage tasks autonomously.
- Strong motivation for continuous learning.
- Access to a private car (for fieldwork).

Conditions offered

- Contract and salary: According to CSIC and national regulations for scientific-technical staff.
- Starting date: mid to end March.
- Contract duration: 6 months, with the possibility to extend to 9 months.
- Working hours: full-time (38h/week) with possibility for reduced-hours contract.
- Location: CSIC Centre for Advanced Studies Blanes (CEAB), Spain, with regular fieldwork in north-east Catalunya.
- Selection and hiring: Through the CSIC employment system (Bolsa de trabajo)

How to apply

Interested candidates should send a CV and a short motivation letter outlining their interest and suitability, and how they meet the specified requirements to j.w.jolles@ceab.csic.es with the subject "Call DRYFISH technician + candidate name".

Application deadline: 17th February 2026

Strong candidates not selected for this position may be considered for future opportunities within the lab.