



Natural
History
Museum

Natural History Museum
Cromwell Road
London SW7 5BD
United Kingdom
+44 (0)20 7942 5000
nhm.ac.uk

Our Patron:
HRH The Princess of Wales

7 September 2024

Dear Selection Panel,

Please consider the enclosed application for the position of **Lecturer in Evolutionary Biology** in the School of Life and Environmental Sciences at the University of Sydney. I am extremely excited about this position and hope to have the opportunity to explain to you in person how my training and experience can translate into high quality outcomes for the university and its students.

As an introduction, I am currently a Marie Skłodowska Curie Independent Research Fellow at the Natural History Museum in London, UK. I completed my PhD at the Australian National University in 2019 on the macroecology and phylogenomics of Australian terrestrial vertebrates. Prior to undertaking my PhD, I received a Master's in Biology from Villanova University in the United States of America, studying molecular phylogenetics and biogeography. My education and research experiences have equipped me with the skills and research networks to succeed as both a researcher and educator in the natural sciences, and I believe they make me a good fit within SOLES at the University of Sydney.

The University of Sydney is consistently ranked as one of the world's top universities, and I am excited by the prospects of working alongside your field-leading researchers. Joining a high-calibre university such as Sydney University will afford me the opportunity to pursue high-impact, high-quality research that integrates my analytical skills with empirical questions, while providing training to the next generation of scientists. My research program focuses on the patterns and processes dictating diversity of vertebrate animals across multiple taxonomic levels and timescales. Many of the questions I ask are empirically driven, but I enjoy developing new analytical methods to investigate comparative and molecular data, and encourage a strong quantitative understanding in those I mentor.

Universities rely on the enthusiasm and interest of its students and researchers alike. I feel strongly about teaching the next generation of scientists, and helping them find their way through biology or whatever field interests them. My experiences as a teaching assistant, demonstrator, and lecturer at the Australian National University, Villanova University, and in a number of primary and highschool classrooms have helped to shape my interest in supporting scientists-in-training. I would welcome the opportunity to return to Australia, where I began my own exciting journey in studying vertebrate biodiversity. The School of Life and Environmental Sciences would be an ideal place to continue my career, and I look forward to sharing my application materials with you.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Dr. Ian G. Brennan
Marie Skłodowska Research Fellow
Vertebrate Division
Natural History Museum, London, UK
ian.brennan4@nhm.ac.uk / iangbrennan@gmail.com