UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in Palaeoenvironmental Geochemistry, Faculty of Environment

Salary: Grade 7 (£32,548 – £38,833 p.a.)

Reference: ENVEE1267

Closing date: 27 August 2018

Fixed term for 2 years (external funding)

Job share and flexible working will be considered

Research Fellow in Palaeoenvironmental Geochemistry
School of Earth and Environment, Faculty of Environment

Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have a background in geochemistry? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive Universities?

You will join a team of geochemists and biogeochemical modellers at the University of Leeds to work on a NERC funded project (North China craton: A unique window into Earth's middle age). You will work with Professor Simon Poulton and Dr Ben Mills to constrain ocean redox conditions and nutrient cycling through targeted portions of Proterozoic strata on the North China craton. The research at Leeds forms part of a larger project in collaboration with Professor Graham Shields and Dr Philip Pogge von Strandmann at University College London.

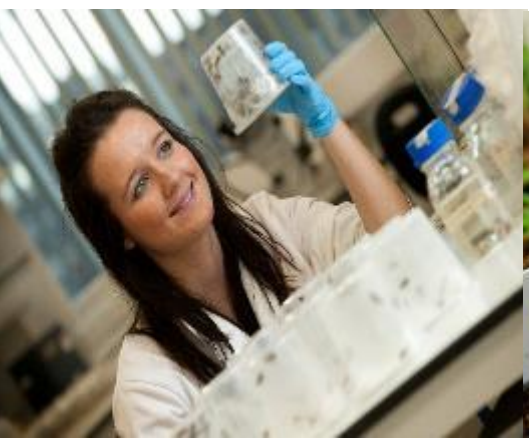
You will be responsible for developing records of water column oxygenation, nutrient availability and sulphur cycling using a range of geochemical and stable isotopic techniques across this time interval. These data will be used to inform the biogeochemical modelling strand of the project, in order to understand environmental controls on the evolution of the Earth system during the mid-Proterozoic.

You will have, or be close to obtaining, a PhD in the field of Earth, Environmental or Marine Sciences and have extensive experience of working in a geochemistry laboratory. You will also have knowledge of sedimentary geochemistry, and may have experience of applying sedimentary extraction techniques. Knowledge of iron-sulphur-carbon systematics, and trace metal and nutrient cycling in ancient marine systems is highly desirable. You will have evidence of a strong commitment to publishing scientific results at an international level.

What does the role entail?

As Research Fellow, your main duties will include:

- Working with and in support of Prof Poulton and Dr Mills on their research grant to ensure the project is successfully completed;
- Generating and pursuing original research ideas in the appropriate subject area;



- Developing research objectives and contributing to the direction of the research project;
- Evaluating methods and techniques used and results obtained by other researchers and to relate such evaluations appropriately to your own work;
- Communicating or presenting research results through publication or other recognised forms of output;
- Working both independently and also as part of a larger team of researchers, engaging in knowledge-transfer activities where appropriate and feasible;
- Maintaining your own continuing professional development and acting as a mentor to less experienced colleagues as appropriate;
- Contributing to the research culture of the School, where appropriate;
- Contributing to the training of both undergraduate and postgraduate students, where appropriate, including assisting with the supervision of projects in areas relevant to the project.
- Assisting with public engagement efforts throughout the project.
- Performing extraction techniques to either produce records of ocean redox and nutrient cycling, and purifying samples for isotopic analysis.
- Performing stable isotopic analysis of samples for their sulphur isotope composition.

These duties provide a framework for the role and should not be regarded as a definitive list. Other reasonable duties may be required consistent with the grade of the post.

What will you bring to the role?

As Research Fellow you will have:

- A PhD (or close to completion) in Earth, Environmental or Marine Sciences, or a closely allied discipline;
- A strong background in low temperature sedimentary and/or stable isotope geochemistry;
- Extensive experience of working in a geochemistry laboratory;
- Demonstrated experience of investigating a palaeoenvironmental problem using sedimentary geochemistry and/or isotope techniques;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines and work effectively under pressure;



- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, including presentation skills and the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of stakeholders;
- Proven ability to manage competing demands effectively, responsibly and without close support;
- A proven ability to work well both individually and in a team;
- A commitment to publishing original scientific results at an international level.

You may also have:

- Experience of biogeochemical modelling;
- Experience of applying sedimentary iron-sulphur-carbon and/or trace metal analyses to ancient samples;
- Experience of stable isotope analysis.

How to apply

You can apply for this role online; more guidance can be found on our How to Apply information. Applications should be submitted by 23.59 (UK time) on the advertised closing date.

Your application should include:

- a **supporting statement** evidencing how you believe your existing knowledge and experience equips you to carry out the role;
- a copy of your **curriculum vitae** giving full details of qualifications and experience;

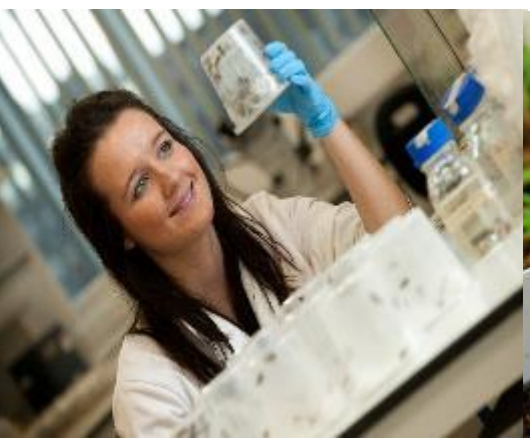
Contact information

To explore the post further or for any queries you may have, please contact:

Professor Simon Poulton, Chair in Biogeochemistry and Earth History
Tel: +44 (0)113 343 5237
Email: s.poulton@leeds.ac.uk

Additional information

(SEE) Find out more about our Research and associated facilities.



Working at Leeds
You can find out more about our generous benefits package and more about what it is like to work at the University and live in the Leeds area in our Working at Leeds information.

Candidates with disabilities
Information for candidates with disabilities, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found in our Accessibility information or by getting in touch with us at disclosure@leeds.ac.uk.

Criminal record information

Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974
A criminal record check is not required for this position, however, all applicants will be required to declare if they have any 'unspent' criminal offences, including those pending.

Any offer of appointment will be, in accordance with our Criminal Records policy. You can find out more about required checks and declarations in our Criminal Records information.