



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in Urban Climate Action

School of Earth & Environment



Salary: Grade 7 (£33,199 – £39,609 p.a. pro-rata)

Reference: ENVEE1351

Closing date: 5 September 2019

Fixed term for 40 months

Part time 80% of the full time equivalent

We will consider job share / flexible working arrangements

Research Fellow in Urban Climate Action, School of Earth and Environment

Are you an ambitious researcher who wants to play an important role in supporting climate action in UK cities? Do you have a directly relevant background and expertise relating to low carbon and/or climate resilient urban development? Do you have strong organisational skills and experience in working with a range of stakeholders to drive high impact research?

We are looking for an enthusiastic and able Research Fellow to join the ESRC funded Place-based Climate Action Network (PCAN) (see <https://pcancities.org.uk>). The post will be based in Leeds, but will work closely with PCAN partners in the LSE, University of Edinburgh and Queens University Belfast. The post will directly support the development of the Leeds Climate Commission (<http://leeds.candocities.org>) and similar commissions currently being developed in Belfast and Edinburgh. It will also support engagements with other cities and towns across the UK. As well as supporting the organisation of these commissions, the research fellow will conduct applied research that helps cities and towns to respond to the challenges associated with transitioning to low carbon, climate resilient development.

The PCAN initiative is important given the urgent need to reduce urban energy use and carbon emissions, and to promote city-scale adaptation and climate resilience. The urban focus is crucial in the broader fight against climate change as the cities where most of the global population now live are both responsible for the majority of energy use and carbon emissions and home to a substantial proportion of the infrastructure that is at risk from the impacts of climate change. It is also important because at some point all international and national climate commitments and policies have to be delivered at the local level, and because cities are innovators that can develop new ideas and approaches and feed them into wider policy and practice. However, cities face multiple challenges in responding to climate change – and so PCAN aims to: i) build capacities for action, ii) develop an evidence base that supports and guides their actions, iii) to explore the different ways in which they can build public and business support for different forms of climate action and iv) stimulate the investments needed to deliver them.



What does the role entail?

As a Research Fellow, your main duties will include:

- Playing an active role in the organisation and on-going development of the Leeds Climate Commission, and where appropriate also the climate commissions in Belfast and Edinburgh;
- Conducting applied research on urban climate action, relating both to carbon accounting and management and climate risk assessment and resilience;
- Delivering analysis on city-scale climate action projects, including their costs and benefits across multiple measures;
- Conducting applied research on urban climate policies, plans and governance, including developing indicators and other ways of tracking progress towards city-level climate targets;
- Supporting applied research on climate finance and on ways of promoting investment in low carbon and climate resilient development;
- Supporting business and public facing climate-related engagement and communications work;
- Preparing material for written and verbal reports, and where appropriate giving presentations relating to PCAN to diverse stakeholders;
- Helping to prepare research papers based on PCAN and where appropriate giving presentations to academic conference on this theme;
- Supporting the development of applications for new funding related to PCAN;
- Working both independently and also as part of a larger team of researchers within the Sustainability Research Institute and across several institutions, 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.

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 a Research Fellow you will have:



- Either a) a PhD or b) a postgraduate qualification and directly relevant professional experience in environmental/climate science, environmental/climate policy or environmental/carbon/water management, or a closely allied discipline;
- An academic background and/or professional experience in the science, policy, planning, governance, economics, financing or management of urban climate action at the city-scale;
- Experience of applied research and analysis relating to low carbon and/or climate resilient development at the city-scale;
- Experience of dealing with stakeholder groups including policy makers, businesses, and NGOs;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines, manage competing demands and work effectively under pressure without close support;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills including presentation skills for both academic and non-academic audiences;
- A proven ability to work well both individually and in a team;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development.

You may also have:

- Experience of pursuing external funding to support research;
- Experience of working with stakeholders in one of the PCAN cities (Leeds, Edinburgh or Belfast).

How to apply

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



Contact information

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

Andy Gouldson, Professor of Environmental Policy & Chair, Leeds Climate Commission

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 9753

Email: A.Gouldson@leeds.ac.uk

Additional information

Find out more about the [Faculty of Environment](#).

Find more about our [School of Earth and Environment](#).

Find out more about the [Sustainability Research Institute](#) and the [Priestley International Centre for Climate](#).

Working at Leeds

Find out more about the benefits of working at the University and what it is like to live and work in the Leeds area on our [Working at Leeds](#) information page.

Candidates with disabilities

Information for candidates with disabilities, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found on our [Accessibility](#) information page 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 page.

