



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in Marine Benthic Biogeochemistry, School of Geography, Faculty of Environment



Salary: Grade 7 (£33,797 – £40,322 p.a.) Due to funding restrictions this post will be appointed at no higher than spine point 34 (£38,017)

Reference: ENVGE1115

Fixed-term until 28 February 2022

We will consider job share / flexible working arrangements

Research Fellow in Marine Benthic Biogeochemistry

School of Geography, Faculty of Environment

Are you an ambitious marine scientist with experience in benthic biogeochemistry? Do you want to address key questions currently facing marine science and society? Do you want to develop your career in one of the UKs leading research intensive universities?

You will be a key member of a team investigating all aspects of sediment geochemistry and biogeochemical process rates in response to experimental deep-sea mining in the Clarion Clipperton Zone, central Pacific Ocean. You will take a leading role conducting international research expeditions, co-ordinating a wide range of sample analyses, performing cutting edge sample analyses and data modelling, and thus deliver vital understanding of the potential impacts of future deep sea mining.

What does the role entail?

As a Research Fellow, your main duties will include:

- Generating and pursuing independent and original research ideas in the appropriate subject area;
- Developing research objectives and proposals and contributing to setting the direction of the research project and team including preparing proposals for funding in collaboration with colleagues;
- Evaluating methods and techniques used and results obtained by other researchers and to relate such evaluations appropriately to your own work;
- Procuring and mobilising essential equipment and consumables for three international research expeditions to the Clarion Clipperton Zone scheduled between 2020 and 2022;
- Taking a leading role on research expeditions to ensure necessary samples are appropriately collected and preserved;
- Recovering and slicing sediment cores, extract nutrient and trace elements porewater samples, and test shear strength while at sea;
- Co-ordinating and performing a wide range of sample treatments and analyses, including solid metal extractions, dissolved nutrient and metal analyses including ICP-MS, and organic carbon composition and isotopic signature;
- Keeping accurate sample inventories and maintaining secure storage of all data collected;



- Collaborating with experts to conduct reaction transport modelling that will quantify biogeochemical process rates;
- Attending overseas project meetings and reporting findings to the funder;
- Preparing papers for publication in leading international journals and disseminate research results through other recognised forms of output;
- Continuing your own professional development and acting as a mentor to colleagues as appropriate;
- Contributing to the training of both undergraduate and postgraduate students, including assisting with the supervision of projects in areas relevant to the project.

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:

- A PhD in marine benthic biogeochemistry or a closely allied discipline;
- A passion to determine the biogeochemical impact of experimental mining in the deep-sea;
- Experience and skills in sampling marine sediment cores and pore waters;
- Experience and skills in analysing sediment and / or porewater sample metals, nutrients, organic compounds and/or isotopes;
- Experience and ability thrive working in a laboratory and on research vessels in remote ocean environments;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines, manage competing demands and work effectively under pressure without close support;
- A proven track record of peer-reviewed publications in high impact factor journals;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills including presentation skills;
- 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 in reaction transport modelling of biogeochemical processes;



- Experience of trace-element sampling and /or analyses in seawater;
- Experience of pursuing external funding to support research.

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:

[Dr Clare Woulds](#), Associate Professor in Water, Soil and Carbon Interactions

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 9440

Email: c.woulds@leeds.ac.uk

[Dr Will Homoky](#), University Academic Fellow in Experimental Biogeochemistry

Email: W.Homoky@leeds.ac.uk

Additional information

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

Find out more about our [Research and associated facilities](#)

Find out more about [Athena Swan in the Faculty of Environment](#)

A diverse workforce

The Faculty of Environment has received a prestigious Athena SWAN silver award from [Advance HE](#), the national body that promotes equality in the higher education sector. This award represents the combined efforts of all schools in the Faculty and shows the positive actions we have taken to ensure that our policies, processes and ethos all promote an equal and inclusive environment for work and study.



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.

