



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in Climate Services for Water Resources in China,
Faculty of Environment



Salary: Grade 7 (£33,797 – £40,322 p.a.)

Due to funding restrictions, it is unlikely that we will be able to offer above £38,017 p.a.

Reference: ENVEE1415

Fixed-term until 31 March 2021

We will consider job share / flexible working arrangements

Research Fellow in Climate Services for Water Resources in China

School of Earth and Environment, Faculty of Environment

Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have a background in hydrology, climate information or the co-production of climate services? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive Universities?

An exciting opportunity has arisen for a researcher to conduct research on the co-development of climate information products for water managers in China, and user evaluation of the products being developed. This position is funded by the UK Met Office's Climate Science for Services Partnership China (CSSP China) programme on behalf of the Newton Fund. The research project aims to co-design and co-develop (between climate service providers, climate scientists, and water managers and intermediaries) climate information prototypes or products to meet the needs of water managers in China, using long-term climate projections. The geographical coverage of this project include the Yellow and Yangtze River basins, and the South-North Water Transfer Project.

This post is based in Leeds and will involve coordinating and developing activities (and work plans) to engage the stakeholders (such as climate service providers, climate scientists, and water managers and intermediaries) in China (and the UK) to develop climate information products for China's water sector. Tasks will include (but not limited to) coordinating the stakeholders to co-design the climate service product, managing the development of the climate service products, conducting end-user testing sessions, collecting and analysing users' feedback (e.g. via surveys, workshops), producing prototypes of final products and relevant documentations. All these tasks aim to actively engage climate service providers, climate scientists and water managers and intermediaries to co-design, co-develop and co-assess the usability of the climate information prototypes or products being developed for water managers in China.

If COVID-19 travel restrictions ease and international business travel is allowed by the University, you will be required to participate in a number of research visits/fieldwork in China, and we anticipate each visit will be between one and three weeks in duration.



Otherwise, they will be conducted through a variety of methods (e.g. online, email, phone).

Additionally, you will work in close collaboration with the project partners in China (e.g. Prof. Buda Su from China Meteorological Administration, Prof. Tong Jiang from Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology) and the UK Met Office (e.g. Dr. John Rostrom) as well as interaction and engagement with other CSSP China projects, and, if applicable, external organisations and interested parties.

The post-holder will be under the supervision of the project team (Dr. Yim Ling Siu (PI), Prof. Suraje Dessai (Co-I) and Dr. Andrea Taylor (Co-I)). You will be based at the Sustainability Research Institute (SRI) of School of Earth & Environment. There will be opportunities to interact with the Climate Change Adaptation, Vulnerability and Services (CCA VS) Group at SRI, the Priestley International Centre for Climate and the Participatory Action Research and Co-production group at Leeds Social Sciences Institute.

What does the role entail?

As a Research Fellow, your main duties will include:

- Coordinating and managing the stakeholders in China's climate services and water sector, and China (and the UK) project partners to meet the needs of the project;
- Working closely with the stakeholders in China and the project partners (China and the UK) to develop and assess the climate information prototypes and products as required;
- Carrying out empirical work including literature reviews, as directed by the line manager;
- Evaluating methods and techniques used and results obtained by other researchers and to relate such evaluations appropriately to your own work;
- Preparing and run co-design and co-development sessions;
- Developing the prototypes of the final products as required;
- Conducting end-users test and assessment of the developed prototypes and/or products;
- Analysing and interpreting the results of research;



- Presenting research findings at national and international conferences and similar events, including the CSSP China Annual Workshop and WCSSP China UK Science Workshop;
- Completing work tasks to meet the defined project milestones (and the deadlines);
- Preparing monthly progress report, project deliverables (including the relevant documents such as cover sheets), end year project report in a professional and timely manner;
- Organising and managing project and project-related documents and data and producing minutes, notes and action points from meetings, workshops, discussion sessions, etc.;
- Preparing papers for publication in leading international journals and disseminating research results through other recognised forms of output;
- If applicable, coordinating and managing with external parties and/or organisations to meet the needs of the projects (e.g. translation company, interpreters, designers);
- 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;
- Balancing the competing pressures of research and administrative demands and deadlines;
- Planning and managing your own research activity within the strategy identified for the project team as a whole;
- Ensuring satisfactory compliance in your work with respect to health and safety, ethical requirements etc.

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 degree and PhD (or close to completion - i.e. the initial thesis needs to have been handed in at the point of application) in relevant climate science/modelling, hydrology, climate services or a closely allied discipline;



- A strong background in climate models and projections, hydrology, co-production in climate services, environmental informatics, stakeholder engagement;
- Quantitative skills: handling climate (and water) variables and large datasets; data visualisation, prepare and conduct surveys (including end-user testing);
- Qualitative skills: preparing and conducting interviews, focus-group discussions, workshops, testing sessions,...etc and analysing the collected qualitative data;
- The ability and willingness to travel and participate in research in China as required (COVID-19 restrictions permitting);
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, including a demonstrated capacity to undertake research and write it up in publishable form and an ability to write clearly and accessibly in English for academic and policy audiences;
- A proven track record of peer-reviewed publications in high impact factor journals;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines and work effectively under pressure;
- Proven ability to manage competing demands effectively, responsibly and without close supervision and support;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills including presentation skills and the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of stakeholders and audience;
- Experience of working well both individually and in a team, and with the ability to contribute to and cooperate in a multi-disciplinary team;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development.

You may also have:

- Research experience in the field of hydrological modelling or water resources modelling and assessment is highly desirable;
- Experience in working in a Chinese cultural context and working environment are also desirable;
- An ability to speak Mandarin.



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 Yim Ling Siu, Lecturer in Environmental Risk Management

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 6717

Email: Y.L.Siu@Leeds.ac.uk

Additional information

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

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

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

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.

