



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in Quaternary Palynology, Faculty of the Environment



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

Reference: ENVEE1453

Fixed-term for 2.5 years – based on external funding

We will consider job share / flexible working arrangements

Research Fellow in Quaternary Palynology

School of Earth and Environment, Faculty of Environment

Are you an ambitious researcher with skills in Quaternary palynology, and looking for your next challenge? Do you want to be part of a large, cutting-edge geoscience research programme? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive Universities?

We are seeking a Research Fellow with experience in Quaternary palynology who will play a pivotal role in developing palaeoenvironmental reconstructions of the Southern North Sea during the Last Interglacial, from cores collected offshore in summer 2020. You will work alongside project partners to develop age-depth models from the collected cores and establish a chronological framework for the reconstructed Last Interglacial landscapes. With the project team, you will develop models of the rate and magnitude of Last Interglacial sea-level change, and the associated environmental response.

This post is part of a €2 million European Starting Grant project ([RISer](#)), which aims to advance our understanding of the magnitude, rates, and drivers of sea-level change during the Last Interglacial, to inform both global and regional sea-level projections beyond 2100. You will work closely with [Dr Natasha Barlow](#), other research fellows, PhD students and benefit from a wider research network including Leeds Quaternary, the Stratigraphy Group, and Palaeo@Leeds.

What does the role entail?

As a Research Fellow, your main duties will include:

- Preparing and analysing Quaternary palynology samples from cores collected from the southern North Sea;
- Developing reconstructions of the palaeolandscape of the Last Interglacial southern North Sea;
- Handling terrestrial and marine core material to prepare samples for lab analyses;
- Working with external laboratories to develop chronological frameworks for the collected cores;



- Developing models of Last Interglacial relative sea-level change and landscape evolution by integrating proxy, chronological and sedimentary datasets;
- Data management and reporting in line with Horizon 2020 requirements;
- 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;
- Preparing papers for publication in leading international journals and disseminating research results through 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 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 or near completion - i.e. the initial thesis needs to have been handed in at the point of application in Geoscience, Archaeology or a closely allied discipline;
- A strong background in Quaternary palynology;
- Experience of working with sedimentary cores and laboratory work;
- 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 international 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 of pursuing external funding to support research;
- Understanding of late Quaternary sea-level change;
- Experience of developing age-depth models;
- Experience of quantitative analysis of microfossil datasets.

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 Natasha Barlow](#), Associate Professor in Quaternary Environmental Change
Email: n.l.m.barlow@leeds.ac.uk

Additional information

Please note: If you are not a British or Irish citizen, from 1 January 2021 you will require permission to work in the UK. This will normally be in the form of a visa but, if you are an EEA/Swiss citizen and resident in the UK before 31 December 2020, this may be your passport or status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

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

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

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



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

This project is funded by the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (grant agreement no. 802281). Funding for this project is secure, despite the UK's exit from the EU.



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

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.

