



**Faculty of Environment
School of Geography**

Research Fellow in Palaeoecology

Full time, fixed term for six months, available from September 2014

You will work on developing a multiproxy palaeoecological dataset from a peatland in the Yorkshire Dales to examine the effects of climate change, pollution and other human impacts on vegetation communities. The role will involve fieldwork and laboratory work including analysis of plant macrofossil remains, geochemistry and testate amoebae. The role will also include statistical analysis of data and writing up a paper for publication.

You should have a relevant PhD in palaeoecology, peatland science or other relevant field. Candidates should be keen to work in the field and laboratory, analyse data, be flexible, have excellent team work and communication skills with relevant field and laboratory experience. The candidate should also have excellent writing skills.

You will join the Ecology and Global Change research cluster in the School of Geography and also become a member of water@leeds which is a unique interdisciplinary grouping of over 150 water researchers across the University of Leeds.

University Grade 7 (£31,342 - £37,394 p.a.)

Informal enquiries may be made to Dr Graeme Swindles, tel +44 (0)113 343 9127, email g.t.swindles@leeds.ac.uk.

Closing Date: 19 September 2014

Ref: ENVGE1000

**Click here for further information about working at the University of Leeds
www.leeds.ac.uk/info/20025/university_jobs**

Job Description

Responsible to: Head of School of Geography

Reports to: Dr Graeme Swindles

Main duties and responsibilities

- Plan and manage the fieldwork, analysis and research reporting in collaboration with the project investigators and other members of the research team
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- Conduct field measurements and laboratory determinations
- Analyse peatland data
- Analysis of plant macrofossils
- Analysis of peat geochemistry
- Analysis of testate amoebae and other microfossils
- Analysis of spheroidal carbonaceous particles (SCP)
- Prepare the report/paper of the research findings for publication
- Any other duties as may reasonably be required, consistent with the grade of the post

Career Expectations

The University of Leeds is committed to developing its staff. All staff participate in the Staff Review and Development scheme and we continue to work with individuals, supporting them to maximise their potential.

Progression to a higher grade is dependent on an individual taking on an increased level of responsibility. The scope for this job may grow over time, allowing possible progression should the post holder demonstrate the skills and a wish to develop and increase their responsibilities.

University Values

All staff are expected to operate in line with the University's values and standards, which work as an integral part of our strategy and set out the principles of how we work together. More information about the University's strategy and values is available at <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/comms/strategy/>.

Person Specification

Essential

- A PhD (or close to obtaining) in palaeoecology, peatland science or other relevant field
- Familiar with laboratory analytical methods and carrying out fieldwork
- Ability to work to deadlines to produce work to a high standard
- Ability to work independently and within a team
- Competent with computing systems
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Ability to carry out statistical analysis of ecological and palaeoecological data
- Enthusiastic and pro-active with a personal interest in the research field

Desirable

- Expertise in plant macrofossil analysis, testate amoebae, spheroidal carbonaceous particles, or other microfossils. However, training can be provided if you do not have these specific skills
- Expertise in understanding past human impacts on the landscape from a palaeoecological, historical and/or archaeological perspective
- A track record of publications, including some as first author

Additional Information

The University offers generous terms and conditions of employment, a wide range of benefits, services, facilities and family friendly policies. Full details are available on the Human Resources web pages accessible at www.leeds.ac.uk/hr

The Partnership

The Partnership has been developed by students and staff and describes the mutual expectations of us all as members of the University of Leeds community. More information about the Partnership is available at <http://partnership.leeds.ac.uk>

Disclosure and Barring Service checks

A Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check is not required for this position. However, applicants who have unspent convictions, cautions, reprimands and warnings, including any pending criminal proceedings must indicate this in the 'other personal details' section of the application form and send details to the Recruitment Officer at disclosure@leeds.ac.uk.

Disabled Applicants

The post is located in the School of Geography. Disabled applicants wishing to review access to the building are invited to contact the department direct. Additional information may be sought from the Recruitment Officer, email disclosure@leeds.ac.uk or tel + 44 (0)113 343 1723.

Disabled applicants are not obliged to inform employers of their disability but will still be covered by the Equality Act once their disability becomes known.

Further information for applicants with disabilities, impairments or health conditions is available in the applicant guidance.