



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Associate Professor / Professor of Sustainable Geoscience, Faculty of Environment



Salary: Grade 9 or 10 (competitive salary)

Reference: ENVEE1639

Closing date: 30 April 2023

We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements

Associate Professor / Professor of Sustainable Geoscience School of Earth and Environment, Faculty of Environment

Are you ready to lead the energy transition through interdisciplinary subsurface research? Do you have a vision to deliver geoscience solutions for a sustainable future? We are seeking an experienced and inspirational leader to drive forward the new Geosolutions Research Centre at the University of Leeds.

Geosolutions Leeds is an exciting new strategic investment by the University of Leeds as part of its Climate Plan. The Climate Plan is at the heart of the University of Leeds' commitment to support climate change mitigation and adaptation, locally, nationally and globally, whilst also contributing to a healthier, greener and fairer place to live, work and study. The University of Leeds has world-leading expertise in geology, engineering and social science, which the Geosolutions Research Centre brings together to deliver an integrated-systems approach to energy geoscience that will meet NetZero goals. The Centre's work is supported by a dedicated administrative team, along with a substantial annual budget of pump-priming funds.

We are seeking an experienced and ambitious leader for the new Geosolutions Research Centre, who is motivated by placing subsurface research at the forefront of addressing the climate crisis. You will lead an existing body of scientists who are internationally leading disciplinary experts, and who collectively have a long-established and excellent track record of working with industry and policy sectors. You will oversee development and delivery of innovative interdisciplinary subsurface research focussed on the energy transition. Beyond our geoscience and engineering expertise, you will also work alongside colleagues in the Priestley International Centre for Climate, the Sustainability Research Institute, Energy Leeds, and UKRI Climate Change Champions, which together provide world-leading expertise in all strands of climate research and policy across the University and beyond.

This is an exciting opportunity to lead Geosolutions Leeds and the University into new areas that meet the urgent needs of the global energy transition. Funding is secured to allow you to kick-start your Geosolutions research at Leeds by appointing a three-year PDRA in a relevant research area of your choice.



What does the role entail?

As **Associate Professor at Grade 9**, your main duties will include:

- Leading Geosolutions Leeds by bringing colleagues and projects together;
- Acting as the public facing leader for Geosolutions Leeds, both internally and externally;
- Committing to foster dialogue between academia, industry and governmental agencies in the area of Geosolutions;
- Promoting and integrating Geosolutions Leeds within and, as appropriate, outside the School, Faculty and University;
- Promoting the integration of your research area with other research interests within Geosolutions Leeds and, as appropriate, outside the School and Faculty, in an interdisciplinary spirit;
- Pursuing, developing and leading research, innovation and impact at national and international levels in alignment with the School's and Geosolutions Leeds' strategic orientation;
- Attracting research income on a collaborative and individual basis to underpin high-quality research activity and programmes/projects;
- Being recognised as an authority in your field, developing and maintaining an external profile, as appropriate to the discipline;
- Maintaining a high-quality record of research publications of international standing;
- Providing high-quality postgraduate supervision and attracting research students to the University;
- Undertaking research-led teaching at different levels on undergraduate and postgraduate taught courses, and taking part in other teaching activities as appropriate;
- Providing support and guidance to students, providing timely feedback, acting as a personal tutor, resolving issues and/or referring to specialist parties, where appropriate;
- Being involved in the recruitment, administrative management and development of staff, and acting as a mentor to more junior colleagues;
- A commitment to promoting and supporting equality, diversity and inclusion within the School.

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.



In addition, as **Professor at Grade 10**, your main duties will include:

- Developing and leading research, innovation and impact at an international level in alignment with the School's and Geosolutions Leeds' strategic orientation;
- Securing and sustaining high levels of research funding individually and/or in collaboration with other members of Geosolutions Leeds;
- Representing the University externally, developing and maintaining networks and promoting links with UKRI, Research Councils and external organisations;
- Providing a major contribution to the strategic academic development, direction and leadership of the School, as well as making a significant contribution to the University through its governance structures;
- Maintaining your international profile as a recognized authority in your field;
- Establishing and maintaining a high-quality record of research output in leading internationally-recognised publications;
- Supporting and mentoring less experienced academic and research staff to promote career development and the nurturing of academic talent;
- Contributing significantly to the overall work of the University by representing the School and Faculty on appropriate committees and groups.

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?

For appointment as **Associate Professor at Grade 9** you will have:

- A PhD or an equivalent level of experience in geoscience, geoengineering or other relevant disciplines aligning to the context of Geosolutions Leeds;
- A proven track record in interdisciplinary research; experience of successfully leading, developing and managing major research projects, including of managing resources and/or staff;
- Management and leadership experience within a University (or similar) School or Department, else in Industry or Business;
- A clear strategic research and impact vision for Geosolutions Leeds;
- A proven ability to work across subject areas, linking appropriately with other disciplines and research groups, including other organizations;
- Outstanding communication, team working and networking including experience of collaboration on cross-disciplinary projects;



- A track record of successfully obtaining funding for research and development from national and international funding agencies;
- A sustained track record of generating research outputs of internationally excellent quality, including as sole or main author of refereed publications;
- Excellent leadership and management skills;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development.

You may also have:

- Evidence of successfully working with industry and third parties to generate impact;
- Experience of providing support and guidance to students;
- Evidence of contributing to School/Department policy and practice in teaching and scholarship;
- Evidence of having integrated research into your own teaching and scholarship.

Additionally, for appointment as **Professor at Grade 10** you will have:

- Evidence of an international reputation as an authority in the relevant discipline/area;
- A high-level track record of leading research programmes and shaping research, innovation and impact agendas at national and international levels;
- Experience in developing impact from your research, ideally extending beyond academic impact to aspects of social, economic, policy, or other impact areas;
- A proven track record of communication excellence with diverse and non-specialist audiences;
- Evidence of successfully working with industry and third parties to generate impact;
- A proven track record of leadership in policy and decision making, and in contributing to school/departmental and/or business strategy;
- A track record of effective team working and collaborative development, including helping less experienced academic staff to progress successfully in their careers.

You may also have:

- Evidence of a sustained record of effective PhD supervision;
- Experience of providing support and guidance to students;
- Evidence of contributing to school/departmental policy and practice in teaching and scholarship;
- Evidence of having integrated research into own teaching and scholarship.



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.

Your application should include:

- A **statement*** addressing the criteria and evidencing how you believe your existing knowledge and experience equips you to carry out the role;
- Your **curriculum vitae** giving full details of qualifications and experience.

***Please specify if you are applying for the Grade 9 or Grade 10 role.**

Contact information

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

Professor Sandra Piazzolo, Professor in Structural Geology and Tectonics, current Academic Lead of Geosolutions Leeds

Email: s.piazzolo@leeds.ac.uk

Dr Rachael Spraggs, Deputy Head of the School of Earth and Environment and Senior Collaborations Manager

Email: r.e.spraggs@leeds.ac.uk

Additional information

Find out more about [Geosolutions Leeds](#)

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

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

Find out more about our [Faculty of Biological Sciences](#)

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.



A diverse workforce

As an international research-intensive university, we welcome students and staff from all walks of life and from across the world. We foster an inclusive environment where all can flourish and prosper, and we are proud of our strong commitment to student education. Within the Faculty of Environment we are dedicated to diversifying our community and we welcome the unique contributions that individuals can bring, and particularly encourage applications from, but not limited to Black, Asian and ethnically diverse people; people who identify as LGBT+; and people with disabilities. Candidates will always be selected based on merit and ability.

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.

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

Working at Leeds

We are a campus-based community and regular interaction with campus is an expectation of all roles in line with academic and service needs and the requirements of the role. We are also open to discussing flexible working arrangements. To find out more about the benefits of working at the University and what it is like to live and work in the Leeds area visit our [Working at Leeds](#) information page.

Information for disabled candidates

Information for disabled candidates, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found on our [Accessibility](#) information page or by getting in touch with us at hr@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.

