



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

FASTA Development and Co-Production Scientist, National Centre for Atmospheric Science, Faculty of Environment



Salary: Grade 7 (£36,333 – £43,155 p.a.)

Reference: ENVNC1008

Part-time or full-time: 60-100% FTE will be considered

Fixed term for 12 months (secondments welcome) – due to external funding

Location of the post is the University of Leeds (with scope for hybrid working)

We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements

FASTA Development and Co-Production Scientist

National Centre for Atmospheric Science

School of Earth and Environment, Faculty of Environment

Would you like to advance the strategy and direction of our African storm forecasting system FASTA, and support the delivery of the project's strategic objectives? Are you interested in pro-actively seeking funding to expand the delivery to African users? Would you like to be part of an experienced team and have the opportunity to contribute to capacity-building with African partner organisations?

Through the application of innovative meteorological research to harness satellite data, FASTA is developing solutions to deliver nowcasts of high-impact storms to Tropical Africa. FASTA aims to provide the capabilities needed for African national weather services to enhance their delivery of weather forecasts and ensure access to high-quality weather information for African populations. Ultimately, better preparedness and informed decision-making using nowcasting information will improve climate resilience and save lives and livelihoods.

As FASTA Development and Co-Production Scientist, you will contribute to the development and uptake of the FASTA nowcasting system (already being used by African weather services and publicly available in Kenya). In particular, you will support transdisciplinary development of the project, engaging with scientists, forecasters, users and customers to co-produce nowcasting systems and enable better decision making.

FASTA incorporates the use of geostationary satellite data, the production of nowcast products in near-real-time and dissemination of information through a mobile application and API. You will be working as part of a team including experienced colleagues who have been part of the app development from the start, but are now only able to commit smaller fractions of their time to the work.

In addition to the advertised post, the team will comprise: (1) a Research & Development Scientist, responsible for developing the nowcasting algorithms; (2) a research scientist, formerly working 100% in this role, but now 20%; (3) a more senior research scientist who has led the successful testing of new forecast algorithms, and is now contributing 20%; (4) a mobile application developer (60%); (5) a computational



modelling specialist who is working on the real-time data handling (20%); (6) a project manager (60%). Within this team, we need you to oversee a transdisciplinary approach. You will bring together the underpinning science and the needs of users and clients, to enable an effective co-production and co-evaluation of solutions.

This role offers the opportunity to work with the Director and other team members to define the strategy and direction of FASTA, and support the delivery of that strategy. You may need to deputise for the Director in relation to FASTA, where necessary. You will be required to take leadership of the interactions with external partners and clients.

What does the role entail?

As FASTA Development and Co-Production Scientist, your main duties will include:

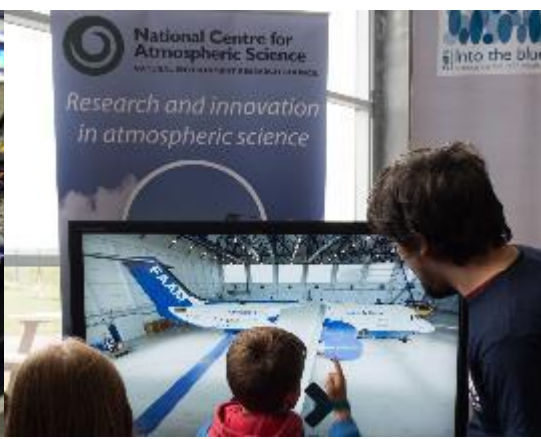
- Pro-actively seeking funding for expansion of the activity, working with the Director and other members of the team to write proposals to solicit funding;
- Working with all partners, including external clients and customers, to co-produce, design and prioritise improvements to the nowcasting tools;
- Designing evaluation of the service;
- Analysing user feedback and other evaluation measures, using this to improve relevance and performance;
- Contributing to capacity-building with African partner organisations;
- Communicating project progress and developments between the different teams within FASTA;
- Working with the PI and project manager to ensure efficient delivery of interdependent actions;
- Contributing to the preparation of contracts and other strategic documents;
- Preparing documents and presentation materials.

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 FASTA Development and Co-Production Scientist, you will have:

- A PhD in a relevant field, or equivalent professional experience;



- An appetite for transdisciplinary, solutions-focussed research and development;
- An appreciation of the scientific principles of weather prediction and the basics of remote sensing of the atmosphere, to the extent that you can communicate the strengths and limitations of these methods with non-scientists, and feedback innovative ideas;
- The ability to write lucid and persuasive documents, quickly if necessary;
- The ability to communicate verbally in groups and in formal presentations;
- Good organisational skills with evidence of the ability to coordinate projects and teams;
- Experience of working as part of a team with multidisciplinary expertise (e.g. technical experts, professional services, researchers from different disciplines and external partners);
- A pro-active, solutions-focussed attitude;
- Willingness to travel to Africa to liaise with clients and partners.

You may also have:

- Experience of project management;
- An understanding of delivering projects in a developing world / African context.

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:

Professor Doug Parker, Science Co-ordinator for NCAS at Leeds

Email: doug.parker@ncas.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 [National Centre for Atmospheric Science](#) and [its relationship with the School of Earth and Environment](#)

Find out more about the [FAAM Airborne Laboratory](#)

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

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

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

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

Our University

At the University of Leeds, we are committed to providing a culture of inclusion, respect and equity of opportunity that attracts, supports, and retains the best students and staff from all backgrounds. Whatever role we recruit for we are always striving to increase the diversity of our community, which each individual helps enrich and cultivate. We particularly encourage applications from, but not limited to Black, Asian, people who belong to a minority ethnic community; people who identify as LGBT+; and disabled people. 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.



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.

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.

