



**UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS**

## **CANDIDATE BRIEF**

**Environmental Data Service Head (Integration and Engagement)  
National Centre for Atmospheric Science**



**Salary: Grade 9 (£56,021 - £70,917 p.a.)**

**Reference: ENVNC1012**

**Contract: Fixed term for a period of 5 years**

**Interview date: Wednesday 11 October 2023, in person in Leeds**

**We will consider job share or flexible working arrangements**

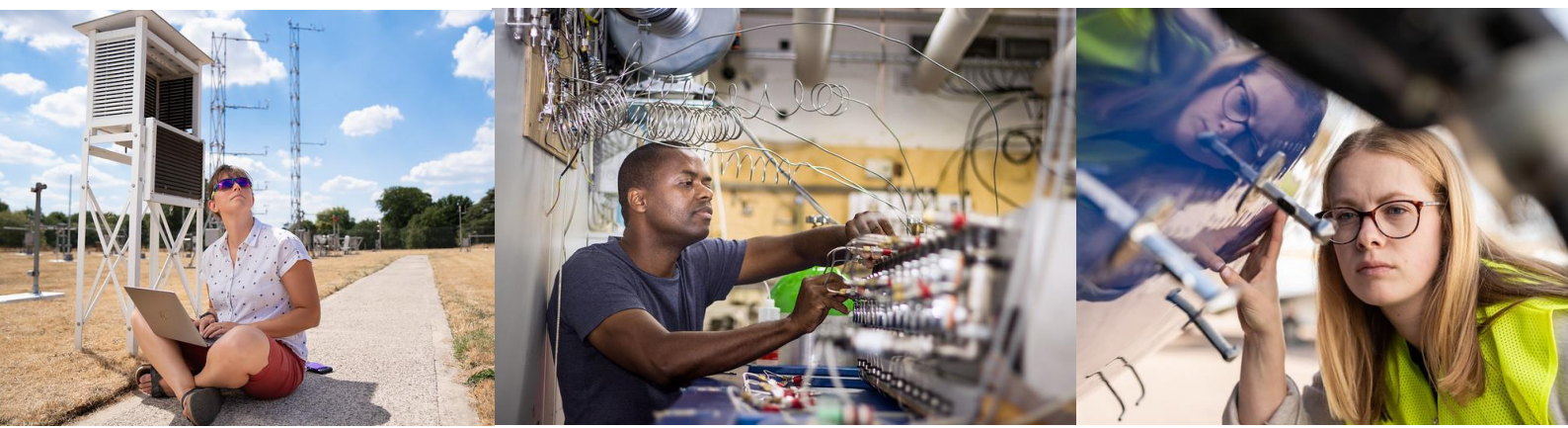
**Environmental Data Service Head (Integration and Engagement)  
Natural Environment Research Council Environmental Data Service  
National Centre for Atmospheric Science  
Faculty of Environment, University of Leeds**

**Are you an inspirational leader with highly developed strategic insight into current and future technical and user-focused requirements for environmental data services? Do you have extensive experience of developing and enhancing user engagement in a data service setting? Would you like to play a central role in the delivery of increasingly integrated services across the full breadth of environmental science to meet the environmental data needs of stakeholders and users across the UK and beyond? If so, we want to hear from you!**

The [NERC Environmental Data Service](#) (EDS) provides integrated data services across the breadth of NERC's data holdings and coordinates closer collaboration and development between NERC's five environmental data centres.

Data is central to modern understanding of our environment. Environmental science is underpinned by access to high quality sources of data and data services. As the principal funder of environmental science in the UK, NERC has supported comprehensive data services and policies since its creation over 50 years ago. Today NERC has five Environmental Data Centres embedded within its Research Centres:

- The British Oceanographic Data Centre (BODC) provides data and services across marine science and is embedded within the National Oceanography Centre.
- The Centre for Environmental Data Analysis (CEDA) provides both atmospheric and Earth Observation data and is embedded within the National Centre for Atmospheric Science and the National Centre for Earth Observation.
- The Environmental Information Data Centre (EIDC) supports the data requirements of the terrestrial and freshwater sciences and is embedded within the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology.
- The UK Polar Data Centre (PDC) is responsible for all of the UK's polar data holdings and associated services and is embedded within the British Antarctic Survey.
- The National Geoscience Data Centre (NDGC) provides geoscience and subsurface data and services and is embedded within the British Geological Survey.





Each of the five environmental data centres specialises in data within a particular sub-discipline of environmental science and serves not only NERC's science community but also a much broader community of users and stakeholders, which span research, industry, education, government and voluntary organisations. At the same time, science and its applications are becoming increasingly multi-disciplinary. Often users of NERC data will need to access the services provided by multiple data centres.

In order to serve an ever-growing community of data users and stakeholders, in 2018 NERC created its Environmental Data Service to coordinate across the data centres. During its first five years the EDS has provided growing coordination between NERC's data centres, both for user services and the development of new, discipline-independent services.

NERC has recently recommissioned its data services for the period 2023-2028. As a consequence, the EDS is embarking on an ambitious plan to deliver increasingly integrated services across the full breadth of NERC science and meeting the environmental data needs of stakeholders and users across the UK and beyond.

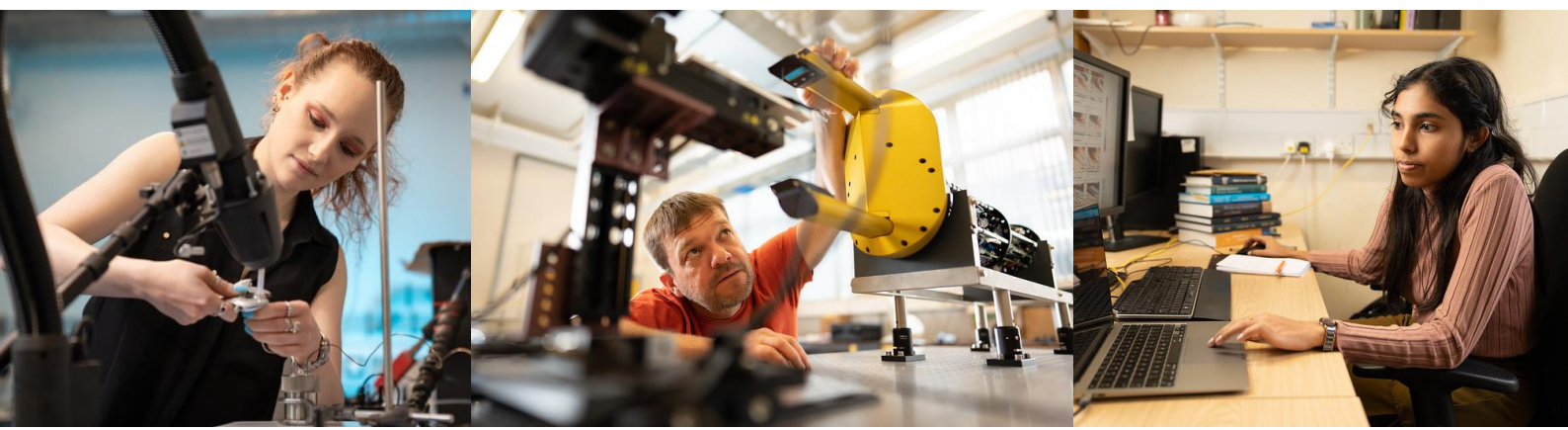
As part of this development, the EDS wishes to recruit an inspirational leader who will help to drive increasing integration between the five data centres and deepen its engagement with environmental data users and providers.

*The role is hosted by the National Centre for Atmospheric Science located at the University of Leeds. The role is employed by the University of Leeds.*

## **What does the role entail?**

The principal role of the EDS Head (Integration and Engagement) is to lead the coordination and integration of data services and associated developments across NERC's established environmental data centres.

During the period 2018-2023, the EDS has developed and implemented a range of integrated services which provide a focal point for scientific data and information spanning all environmental science domains: atmosphere and climate, earth observation, polar and cryosphere, marine, terrestrial and freshwater, geoscience, solar and space physics.



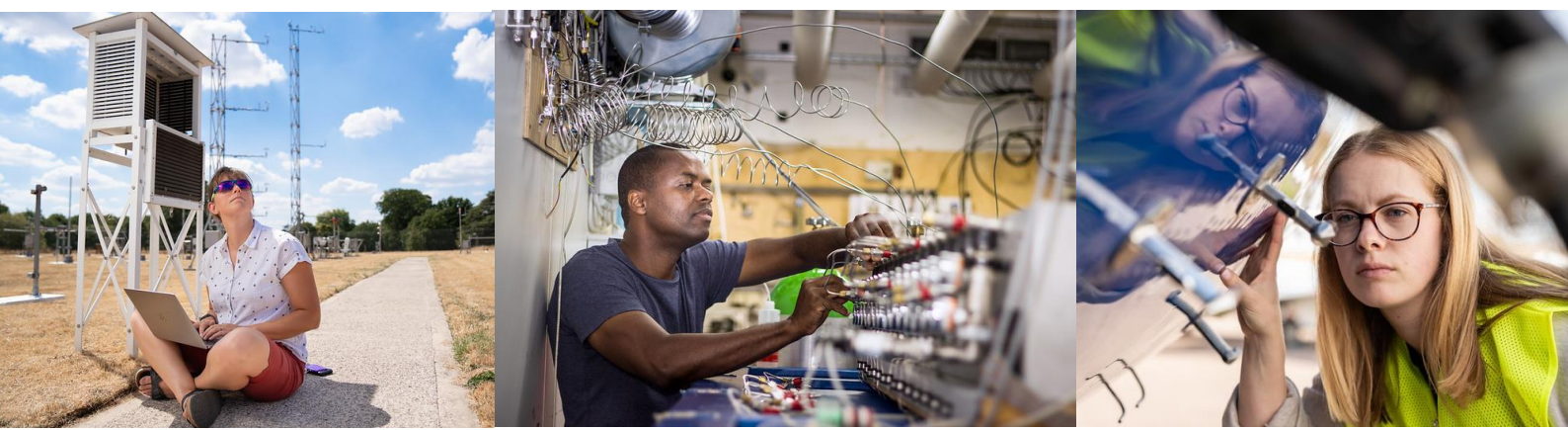
Over the next five years the NERC environmental data centres will maintain and refine their range of discipline specific services whilst working collaboratively around a vision for a transition to a single, federated EDS within which services and policies are delivered at the most appropriate level. User needs will drive this development, which will lead to increasing visibility of the EDS and improved access to environmental science data, leading directly to support for the NERC Digital Strategy.

The role of EDS Head (Integration and Engagement) is to provide visionary leadership for this collaborative development.

The role holder will report to the chair of the EDS Management Board (currently the Executive Director of NCAS).

**As EDS Head (Integration and Engagement) your main duties will include:**

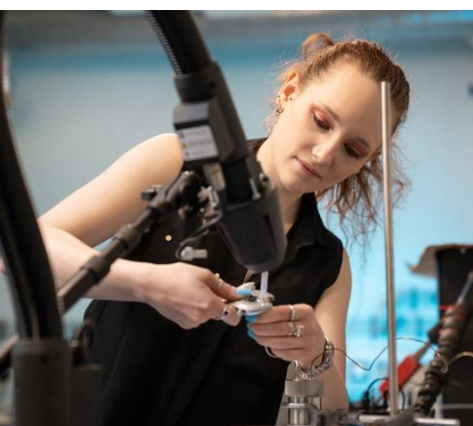
- Developing and maintaining a full understanding of the data management practices, policies and applications at each NERC Environmental Data Centre (technologies, software, standards used, stakeholders, training, etc.) and establish good working relationships with each data centre;
- Leading the continuous development and facilitate the implementation of a Roadmap for the EDS, working closely with the data centre Heads and seeking the support and approval of the EDS Management Board and NERC;
- Coordinating and facilitating activities across the data centres, seeking areas where integration can create added value and efficiency, and consulting closely with users;
- Coordinating and prioritising the development of new capabilities and services across the data centres in consultation with users and stakeholders;
- Identifying opportunities and leading appropriate funding bids to support and enhance both short-term and longer-term opportunities for the EDS, providing appropriate coordination of both planning and delivery;
- Recognising that NERC's National Capability funding sustains no more than half of the EDS activities, work with the data centres' hosting research centres to develop a strategy for long-term sustainability of the EDS;
- Coordinating the development and review of harmonised cross-EDS policies and



guidance documents (e.g., data policy, digital preservation policy, DOI guidance, data value checklist, staff development and training needs, user support, confidential data management and governance, etc.);

- Leading the engagement between the EDS and other relevant NERC programmes (e.g., Digital Solutions, Constructing a Digital Environment, the JASMIN super-data-cluster, etc.);
- Leading future collaborations between the EDS and other external data services and communities, including (but not limited to) health sciences, engineering and other sciences;
- Coordinating the development and implementation of a cross-EDS training programme, identifying user needs and seeking appropriate external funding;
- Working with the communication teams in the data centres and their hosting research centres, develop and implement a cross-EDS strategy for communication, furthering user and stakeholder awareness of EDS capabilities and achievements;
- Providing regular management reports concerning the operation and requirements of the EDS to the EDS Management Board;
- Leading the EDS reporting to NERC and coordinate the production of an EDS annual report;
- Coordinating the adoption of the UKRI Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) strategy across EDS, ensuring EDS actively contributes to the implementation of NERC's EDI Living Action Plan;
- Coordinating with NERC and UKRI on the implementation of all data service-relevant elements of UKRI's strategy for environmental sustainability.

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 EDS Head (Integration and Engagement) you will have:

- Substantial experience of delivering user-focused data services in a science context;
- Excellent understanding of modern data policies and standards, such as FAIR, TRUST principles, CoreTrustSeal, data publication and DOIs;
- Extensive experience of developing and enhancing user engagement in a data service setting;
- Substantial experience of leading teams in a data service or data technical support context;
- Highly developed strategic insight into current and future technical and user-focused requirements for environmental data services;
- An ability to develop and maintain constructive professional relationships through excellent interpersonal, communication and team working skills;
- An understanding and appreciation of equality, diversity and inclusion principles and practices, including a commitment to embedding EDI across the environmental data service;
- A demonstrable commitment to personal and professional skills development, and actively supporting the development of others.

You may also have:

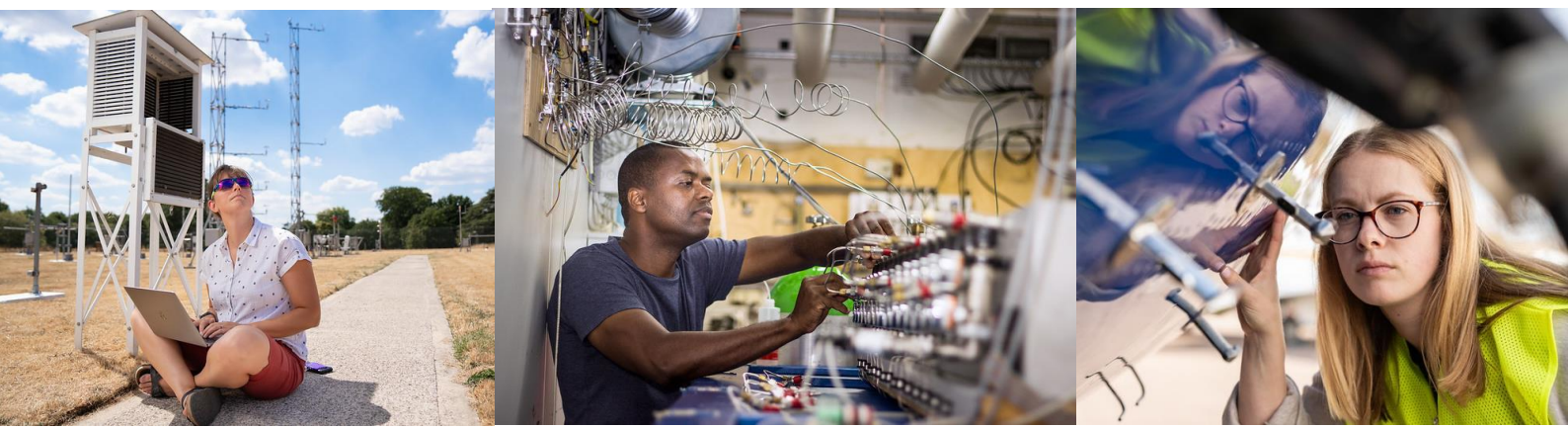
- Experience of budget planning in a scientific service environment;
- Experience of successfully bidding for funding in a scientific service environment.

## 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.

Please upload with your application:

- an up-to-date CV
- a 2-page statement explaining your interest in this role and your vision for the development of the Environmental Data Service.



## Contact information

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

**Stephen Mobbs, Executive Director, National Centre for Atmospheric Science and Chair of the EDS Management Board**

Email: [stephen.mobbs@ncas.ac.uk](mailto:stephen.mobbs@ncas.ac.uk)

**Beatrix Schlarb-Ridley, Director of Innovations and Impact, British Antarctic Survey**

Email: [beatrix@bas.ac.uk](mailto:beatrix@bas.ac.uk)

## Additional information

### About the NERC Environmental Data Service

Find out more about the [NERC Environmental Data Service](#)

### About the National Centre for Atmospheric Science

Find out more about the [National Centre for Atmospheric Science](#) and its [relationship to NERC's facilities and resources for environmental science](#)

### About the University

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

### A diverse workforce

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 and from across the world. 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 [foehr@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:foehr@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.

