



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

## CANDIDATE BRIEF

**FASTA Development Manager, National Centre for Atmospheric Science,  
Faculty of Environment**



**Salary: Grade 7 (£37,099 – £44,263 p.a. or p.a. pro rata)**

**Reference: ENVNC1017**

**Part-time or full-time: 40-100% FTE will be considered**

**Fixed term for 12 months (secondments welcome) – due to the need to complete specific time limited work**

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

**We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements**

**The post would be suited to being taken as a secondment from an existing position**

# **FASTA Development Manager**

## **National Centre for Atmospheric Science**

### **School of Earth and Environment, Faculty of Environment**

**Are you a weather/ climate researcher looking to move into a more innovation and development-facing role, or an innovation development professional looking to focus on climate and weather services in one of the UK's leading research-intensive universities? 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, and foster African private-sector development? Would you like to be part of an experienced team and have the opportunity to contribute to capacity-building with African partner organisations?**

FASTA has developed solutions to deliver 1 - 6 hour warnings ("nowcasts") of high-impact African storms. African users and organisations receive our storm warnings within minutes, giving them an hour or more in which to take action. Through the application of innovative meteorological research to harness satellite data, we aim to provide capabilities for African national weather services to enhance their delivery of these weather forecasts and ensure access to high-quality weather information for African populations. Ultimately, better preparedness and informed decision-making using nowcasting information improves climate resilience and saves lives and livelihoods.

We are looking for a Development Manager to lead the expansion of uptake of FASTA through partnerships in Africa. You will be working as part of a team including experienced academics and researchers who have been part of the app development from the start, and existing partners in Africa and internationally.

As FASTA Development Manager, 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 enable better decision making.

A priority will be obtaining funding to support sustainable delivery of the system in Africa, including commercial funding or sponsorship, or project funding. You will take



a lead on engagement with public and private-sector African partners. This will include assisting in the preparation and submission of bids for commercial sponsorship as well as collaborative proposals in response to external funding opportunities.

In the first instance, the role will contribute to the WISER Early Warnings for Southern Africa (WISER-EWSA) project in Southern Africa, in which FASTA products are being trialled with disadvantaged user groups in urban areas.

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 develop a network of African and international partners and clients (building on our wide existing network), and you will take leadership of the interactions with external partners and clients.

## What does the role entail?

As FASTA Development Manager your main duties will include:

- Developing and maintaining relationships with partners in Africa and elsewhere, in the public and private sector, in order to improve and expand the relevance and uptake of our services in Africa;
- Pro-actively seeking funding for expansion of the use of FASTA storm information in Africa, working with the Director and other members of the team to engage with potential funders and write proposals to obtain funding;
- Contributing to capacity-building with African partner organisations; Working with public agencies and private sector companies to develop African capability to create and deliver the FASTA services;
- Working with all partners, including external clients and customers, to coproduce, design and prioritise improvements to the nowcasting tools; Analysing user feedback and other evaluation measures, advising our technical team on how to improve relevance and performance;
- Working with the Director 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 Manager, you will have:

- Relevant experience in a climate-related subject, gained via a PhD or equivalent experience within industry or academia. Experience should include 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;
- Experience of working with academic researchers, including collaborations across disciplinary, professional and institutional boundaries and contributing to funding bids;
- An understanding of the challenges in innovation from scientific research, with evidence of the ability to engage with external public- and private-sector organisations, recognising cultural, organisational or economic differences, in order to develop collaborations and commercial activity;
- A pro-active, solutions-focussed attitude;
- Strong analytical skills with the ability to collate, analyse and communicate information from a range of sources to support planning and reporting;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills with the ability to communicate effectively in groups and in formal presentations; The ability to write lucid and persuasive documents, quickly if necessary;
- Willingness to travel to Africa to liaise with clients and partners.

You may also have:

- A track record of initiating and converting cutting edge research into successful new innovation opportunities such as contract research, consultancy and service delivery;
- 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

