



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Project Assistant in Quantifying the Potential for Regenerative Agriculture to Contribute to Net-Zero in the UK, Faculty of Environment



Salary: Grade 5 (£25,742 – £29,605 p.a. depending on experience)

Reporting to: David Williams

Reference: ENVEE1720

Part time: 50% FTE (17.5 hours per week)

Fixed term for 15 months to complete specific time limited work

Location: University of Leeds (with scope for hybrid working)

We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements

Overview of the Role

Are you interested in using your literature review, project management, and quantitative analysis skills on a project studying regenerative agriculture?

Dr David Williams, Dr Ruth Wade, and Dr Jenny Hodbod have recently received funding for a 15-month project 'Quantifying the Potential for Regenerative Agriculture to Contribute to Net-Zero in the UK'. Using published literature and expert opinions we will conduct a synthesis of UK net-zero agricultural interventions, determining their barriers, opportunities and potential impacts, and estimating the level of certainty we currently have about these effects.

We are looking for a 50% Grade 5 research project assistant to assist in the following project activities:

- A scoping review with Delphi-technique expert elicitation to identify best-estimates of the potential of on-farm interventions for carbon sequestration and their impacts (positive or negative) on agricultural yields.
- An expert elicitation workshop with farmers to identify barriers and enabling conditions for each intervention.

Main duties and responsibilities

- Leading a literature review to identify the full range of net-zero interventions being used, promoted, or suggested, on UK farmland, following the PRISMA-ScR method. This method defines a review protocol and uses a stepwise process to collect all potentially relevant articles before iteratively screening them based on a set of criteria, focusing first on the title, then abstract, and finally the full paper. This will produce a set of relevant publications for each intervention;
- Summarising each paper into a single paragraph using a standardised procedure to extract key data: location; study design; methods used; key biophysical and agricultural variables (e.g. soil type, crop type); and the impact on carbon balances and agricultural yields;
- Organising workshops with diverse academic and practitioner partners, and assisting in their facilitation;



- Using the summaries to help the PIs produce expert-informed estimates of the per-hectare impacts of each intervention on carbon balances and agricultural yields;
- Synthesising project activities into products for academic and practitioner audiences.

Depending on your skills, experience, and what you want to gain from this position, there will also be opportunities to assist in:

- Applying the Delphi technique in workshops;
- Supporting Dr Williams in a spatial analysis for each intervention, estimating the area of the UK over which it could be applied, based on land-cover data and the key variables identified previously.

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.

Qualifications and skills

Essential

- Expertise in environmental science or biological science;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines;
- A demonstrated ability to summarise literature quickly;
- Good interpersonal and communication skills, and the ability to communicate effectively with the rest of the project team;
- The ability to work unsupervised and to use your own initiative.

Desirable

- A completed BSc or BA, or be near completion, with content in soil science, agro-ecology, agricultural science, biosphere-atmosphere interactions, ecology, or environmental social science;
- A completed MSc or MA, or be near completion, with content in soil science, agro-ecology, agricultural science, biosphere-atmosphere interactions, ecology, or environmental social science;
- An understanding of farming practices;



- An understanding of regenerative farming practices;
- Experience in large literature reviews;
- Experience in organising workshops.

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 [Faculty of Environment](#).

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

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

Find out more about Equality and Inclusion 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.

Our University

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, 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.

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.

