



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in Water and Health Governance,
Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences



Salary: Grade 7 (£37,099 – £44,263 p.a.) Due to funding restrictions, an appointment will not be made higher than £39,347 p.a.

Reference: EPSCV1132

Closing date: Wednesday 10 April 2024

Fixed term for 24 months

We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements

Research Fellow in Water and Health Governance, School of Civil Engineering.

Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have experience of engaging with water and health system governance in your own research field with a particular interest in systems thinking, climate resilience and social equity? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research-intensive Universities?

We seek a motivated and versatile Research Fellow to help us drive evidence-based changes in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) systems and global health systems to make them more resilient and equitable. You will be working as part of two international consortiums with a wide range of research and impact partners. The role will help deliver the [FCDO WASH Systems for Health](#) project and a new [NIHR supported project](#) on health systems, extreme weather, and business continuity. Both projects have a primary focus on low- and middle-income country contexts.

Working with Dr Paul Hutchings, Associate Professor in Water, Sanitation and Health, you will be conducting novel research and international impact activities across these projects. This will include designing and delivering desk and field studies on WASH system strengthening initiatives and supporting the establishment of an international learning partnership to share experiences across six countries in South Asia and Africa. It will also involve contributing to research on healthcare system resilience to extreme weather, with a primary task to design and implement a Fuzzy set Qualitative Comparative Analysis (FsQCA) study to compare experiences of extreme weather response across countries. Organising and attending international workshops will be part of the role.

With a PhD (or having submitted your thesis before taking up the role) in a water or health system governance related-area, you will have demonstrated theoretical understanding of governance issues, an ability to learn and apply advanced social science methodologies, and an aptitude to work on policy-relevant issues.



What does the role entail?

As a Research Fellow, your main duties will include:

- Designing and delivering original research and evidence synthesis on systems-thinking, systems-based approaches and system strengthening initiatives in WASH and global health;
- Contributing to the design and delivery of international learning forums bringing together WASH implementation partners from six countries to share learning and generate participatory research insights;
- Undertaking a FsQCA study on extreme weather and healthcare resilience to generate evidence on strategies for building more resilient healthcare systems;
- Conducting literature reviews and collating data and compiling datasets;
- Contributing to data management within the project and preparing, with guidance, other project deliverables and presentations in a timely manner;
- Presenting work at project meetings and conferences nationally and internationally as required;
- Generating and pursuing independent and original research ideas in the appropriate subject area;
- Developing research objectives and proposals and contributing to setting the direction of the research project and team including preparing proposals for funding in collaboration with colleagues;
- Evaluating methods and techniques used and results obtained by other researchers and to relate such evaluations appropriately to your own research;
- Preparing papers for publication in leading international journals and disseminating research results through other recognised forms of output;
- Making a significant contribution to the dissemination of research results by publication in leading peer-reviewed journals and by presentation at national and international meetings;
- Working independently and also as part of a larger team of researchers, both internally and externally, to develop new research links and collaborations and engage engaging in knowledge-transfer activities where appropriate and feasible;
- Maintaining your own continuing professional development and acting as a mentor to less experienced colleagues as appropriate;
- Contributing to the training of both undergraduate and postgraduate students, including assisting with the supervision of projects in areas relevant to the project.



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 a Research Fellow you will have:

- A PhD (or have submitted your thesis before taking up the role) in a water or health system governance related area. In the PhD, or related work, you will have demonstrated theoretical understanding of governance issues, an ability to learn and apply advanced social science methodologies, and an aptitude to work on policy-relevant issues;
- A strong background in policy-relevant research in the global water or health sectors, including experience in engaging and working with non-academic partners;
- Experience and/or knowledge of working in WASH, global health or international development;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines and manage competing demands effectively without close support;
- A developing track record of peer-reviewed publications in international journals;
- Excellent communication skills both written and verbal, and the ability to communicate your research at national and international conferences;
- A proven ability to work well both independently and in a team;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development.

You may also have:

- Experience of pursuing external funding to support research;
- Relevant experience, professional networks and language skills with relevance to the water or health sectors in Bangladesh, Malawi, Nepal, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda or Vietnam;
- Experience of supervising undergraduate and postgraduate research projects.



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:

[Dr Paul Hutchings](#), Associate Professor in Water, Sanitation and Health

Email: P.Hutchings@leeds.ac.uk

Additional information

Faculty and School Information

Further information is available on the research and teaching activities of the [Faculty of Engineering & Physical Sciences](#), and the School of [Civil Engineering](#).

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 Engineering and Physical Sciences 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 Engineering and Physical Sciences are proud to have been awarded the Athena SWAN [Silver](#) Award from the Equality Challenge Unit, the national body that promotes equality in the higher education sector. Our [equality and inclusion webpage](#) provides more information.



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.

