



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Deputy Director of Innovation and Engagement

Priestley Centre for Climate Futures



Salary: Grade 10 (£66,857 to £82,179)

Reference: PSFUI1003

Closing date: 19 April 2024

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

We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements.

Deputy Director of Innovation and Engagement, Priestley Centre for Climate Futures

Open to academic or professional service staff

Are you an ambitious leader with extensive experience leading innovation-focused initiatives? Can you develop and deliver compelling strategic plans to translate and drive innovation from climate research? Do you have a track record of developing and maintaining effective partnerships with businesses, communities and third sector organisations?

The Priestley Centre for Climate Futures mission is to collaboratively design and deliver just and actionable climate solutions by integrating research, innovation, policy and education to imagine, influence and shape a better future for our communities, our region and the world. It builds from the [Priestley International Centre for Climate](#) with a focus on genuine impact on climate change by delivering on-the-ground implementation and impact underpinned by programmes of integrated research, innovation, policy and education. It will play a significant role in supporting the delivery of the University's Climate Plan using the latest evidence and research expertise.

A Deputy Director post is available, providing an opportunity to become part of the Priestley Centre leadership team. You will support the Director of the Priestley Centre, working alongside two other Deputy Directors and the Head of the Priestley Centre to deliver on the Centre's mission by leading the development and delivery of the Centre's innovation strategy. You will also work closely with the newly appointed PVC Business Engagement and Enterprise (BE&E) and team to proactively develop partnerships with innovative organisations and companies to collaborate with University of Leeds staff and students to catalyse and accelerate the creation and application of real-world climate action. We are particularly keen to work with businesses, communities and third-sector organisations to develop a set of living laboratories and initiatives that support a resilient net-zero transition.

This is an exciting opportunity to develop your own strategic vision for delivering innovation from world-leading climate research and resource its delivery. Reporting to the Director of the Priestley Centre for Climate Futures and drawing upon expertise from the University-wide Business Engagement and Enterprise team, you will build the capacity and capability of our staff and students to identify and deliver innovation from



climate research with partners. You will act as an ambassador for the Centre representing the breadth of University of Leeds climate-related activities externally, and by developing and maintaining relationships with key partners. You will have the ability to influence outside of Leeds, leveraging opportunities to lead and participate in external networks, working groups and committees to provide thought leadership on climate innovation.

Possessing substantial experience in creating innovation strategies and seeking out new opportunities to work with partners or groups to support innovative efforts embedded in the latest evidence, you will enhance the Centre's and the University of Leeds' external reputation and leadership by promoting innovative initiatives focused on climate and the net zero transition. You will be an effective communicator, comfortable in translating complex ideas across academia and business and build strong and genuine partnerships to ensure demonstrable impact.

What does the role entail?

As a Deputy Director for the Priestley Centre for Climate Futures, your main duties will include:

- Working with the Priestley Centre Director to lead strategy and business case development and delivery activities, with specific responsibility for our innovation vision as part of the University-wide Business Engagement and Enterprise ambition and strategy;
- Forging and maintaining partnerships with external organisations, and acting in an ambassadorial capacity for the Priestley Centre;
- Initiating and supporting significant co-designed innovation projects and partnerships facilitating the progression of local, regional and global climate innovation including a set of living laboratories and initiatives to research and trial sustainable, scalable mechanisms to deliver a resilient net zero transition using the University and our city as a testbed;
- Building the capacity and capability of our staff and students to identify and deliver innovation from climate research with partners including developing and delivering innovation training and curating and supporting intern and secondment opportunities;
- Working with the wider Priestley Centre leadership team as well as other teams such as Nexus and the Research and Innovation Service, to establish the necessary infrastructure and agility to deliver climate and consulting services



to increase the pipeline of applications for tenders, contract research, consulting and services in climate;

- Working closely with members of the Climate Plan programme delivery team to support Climate Plan delivery;
- Work closely with the PVC Business Engagement and Enterprise to jointly pilot (as a test bed) and develop initiatives for the Centre that will create innovation and develop collaborative partnerships more widely across the University;
- Participating in Priestley Centre meetings, providing leadership for our innovation activities, and contributing to the continuous development of the overall Priestley Centre strategy;
- Being the point of contact for linkage into the wider Business Engagement and Enterprise leadership team;
- Providing effective leadership and direction to staff and students supporting the delivery of Priestley Centre activities;
- Fostering a positive and inclusive culture including bringing together diverse teams of staff, students and partners to tackle challenges in which everyone's skills and experience are value equally.

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

As a Deputy Director for the Priestley Centre for Climate Futures you will have:

Essential

- Significant experience in industry and/or university knowledge exchange, impact and commercialisation;
- A proven track record in driving and delivering compelling new programmes of innovation and consulting services with strong experience of working within or with commercial organisations;
- Significant experience in developing strategic plans and leading activities to deliver against them;
- An excellent track record of successfully establishing and maintaining effective partnerships with businesses, communities and third-sector organisations to co-design initiatives that support strategic goals;



- Experience in leading, developing and overseeing a pipeline of innovation activity, negotiating with partners to create productive collaborations such as secondments, internships, tenders, consultancy and contract research;
- Experience in leading and participating in networks, working groups and committees to provide thought leadership on climate innovation;
- The ability to build the capacity and capability of staff and students to identify and deliver innovation, with experience of delivering training and learning opportunities;
- Demonstrable ability to lead and manage a team and to work alongside and in partnership with other teams and on own initiative.

Desirable

- Detailed current knowledge of the global climate and energy innovation landscape;
- Experience of engaging with academic researchers and higher education institutions;
- Experience of driving transformational change programmes, or being involved in organisational step changes.

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.

Your application should include:

- A **statement** addressing the criteria (under 'Qualifications and skills') and evidencing how you believe your existing knowledge and experience equips you to carry out the role;
- Your **curriculum vitae** giving full details of qualifications and experience.

Contact information

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

Dr Shona Smith, Head of the Priestley Centre for Climate Futures -

Email: s.c.smith@leeds.ac.uk

For general enquiries about the Priestley Centre, please contact: climate@leeds.ac.uk



Additional 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.

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.

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.

