



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in Quantitative Social Science for Climate Services,
Faculty of Environment



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

Reporting to: Suraje Dessai

Reference: ENVEE1747

Fixed-term until 31 December 2026 - to complete specific time limited work

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

We will consider job share / flexible working arrangements

Overview of the Role

Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have a background in quantitative social science? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive Universities?

An exciting opportunity has arisen for a researcher to conduct research on European climate services using quantitative social science approaches. This position is part of the Horizon Europe project 'Adaptation-oriented Seamless Predictions of European ClimaTe' (ASPECT).

The ASPECT project will produce a step change in the information provided for European decision makers, planners and practitioners tailored to support improved resilience to future climate and weather. The project will be delivered by a consortium of European climate specialists with a balance of physical science (prediction, projection and impacts) and social science (user engagement, climate services, communication). There is a focus on users of climate information, including enabling them to influence the development of underpinning science and the design of a delivery system.

This post will be based at the University of Leeds and will involve coordinating and managing, together with the PI (Prof. Suraje Dessai) and CoI (Dr Andrea Taylor), a work package whose aim is to increase the usability of novel seasonal to decadal (S2D) climate information for adaptation using social science methods to: 1) better understand how climate information and knowledge can help organisations prepare for and take action to reduce the physical risks from a changing climate; 2) facilitate the interactions between ASPECT climate scientists and users of S2D climate information (including intermediaries) through annual multi-sector user forums; 3) understand whether and how S2D climate information developed in ASPECT can be scaled up.

You will be working with other ASPECT partners and users of climate information. Your activities will include: analysis of a quantitative survey assessment of climate information use across four European regions; develop and analyse data from a survey to test whether and how S2D climate information and knowledge scales up with other potential users (target sample of 200); supporting annual multi-sector user forums to create a physical/virtual/hybrid space of interaction between ASPECT scientists and users of climate information.



The post-holder will be based at the Sustainability Research Institute at the University of Leeds and will be part of the research group on Climate Change Adaptation, Vulnerability and Services. There will also be opportunities to interact with the Priestley International Centre for Climate, the Centre for Decision Research and the University of Leeds Met Office Strategic (LUMOS) Research Group.

What does the role entail?

As a Research Fellow, your main duties will include:

- Coordinating and managing, together with the PI and CoI, a work package whose aim is to increase the usability of novel seasonal to decadal (S2) climate information for adaptation using social science methods to: 1) better understand how climate information and knowledge can help organisations prepare for and take action to reduce the physical risks from a changing climate; 2) facilitate the interactions between ASPECT climate scientists and users of S2D climate information (including intermediaries) through annual multi-sector user forums; 3) understand whether and how S2D climate information developed in ASPECT can be scaled up;
- Analysis of a quantitative assessment of climate information use across four European regions;
- Development and analysis of a quantitative survey to test whether and how S2D climate information and knowledge scales up with other potential users (target sample of 200);
- Supporting four annual multi-sector user forums to create a physical/virtual/hybrid space of interaction between ASPECT scientists and users of climate information;
- Carrying out other empirical work including literature reviews;
- Analysing and interpreting the results of research;
- Preparing project deliverables and presentations in a timely manner;
- Preparing papers for publication in leading international journals and disseminating research results through other recognised forms of output;
- Presenting at national and international conferences and similar events;
- Generating and pursuing, with guidance from the PI and CoI, independent and original research ideas in the appropriate subject area;
- Working both independently and as part of a larger team of researchers, 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;
- Balancing the competing pressures of research and administrative demands and deadlines;
- Ensuring satisfactory compliance in your work with respect to health and safety, ethical requirements etc.;
- Travel internationally to in-person project workshops and meetings.

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:

- Have a PhD in a relevant social science discipline. Note that we will consider applicants who have submitted their thesis and are awaiting their viva, but the thesis must be submitted at the time of application;
- Good experience in implementing quantitative social science studies (e.g. surveys, experiments, observational studies);
- Good experience of using inferential statistics in data analysis (e.g. regression approaches, factor analysis, cluster analysis);
- Experience of working on topics related to weather or climate;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, including a demonstrated capacity to undertake research and write it up in publishable form and an ability to write clearly and accessibly in English for academic and policy audiences;
- A proven track record of peer-reviewed publications in high impact factor journals and presentations at international conferences;
- Experience of working well both individually and cooperatively in a multidisciplinary team;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines, manage competing demands and work effectively under pressure without close support;



- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development;
- The ability and willingness to travel to Europe in order to work.

You may also have:

- Background in climate services;
- Existing collaborations with organisations and networks of interest in Europe;
- Experience of pursuing external funding to support research.

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.

Additional information

Find out more about the [Faculty of Environment](#).

Find out more about our [Sustainability Research Institute](#)

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

Find out more about [Equality in the Faculty](#)

A diverse workforce

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

Find out more about the benefits of working at the University and what it is like to live and work in the Leeds area on 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.

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](#).

