



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in Climate Change Impacts on Food Safety, Faculty of Environment



Salary: Grade 7 (£38,205 – £45,585 p.a. depending on experience)

Reporting to: Amanda Maycock

Reference: ENVEE1765

Fixed term for 36 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 an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have a background in climate science and an interest in climate change impacts? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive Universities?

You will join a team of climate change and impacts scientists at the University of Leeds to work on the new European Union funded Ambrosia project. Ambrosia is a 3-year project involving 17 public and private sector partners across Europe, which aims to bridge knowledge, communication, and action for Food Safety in Europe in a changing climate. You will work with Professor Amanda Maycock, Professor Andy Challinor and an international team of interdisciplinary researchers to investigate regional climate changes in Europe which have the potential to affect food systems. You will analyse observation datasets and global and regional climate model projections to establish projected changes in climate and extremes in Europe and their importance for risks related to food safety. You will investigate sources of uncertainty in projections and different ways to account for uncertainties in risk assessments (e.g., storylines vs. probabilistic information). You will work collaboratively with an interdisciplinary group of scientists to connect the changes in regional climate to the risk of food pathogens at different stages of food production (growing, harvesting, processing, storage). This is a fantastic opportunity to develop new interdisciplinary research skills working across the Physical Climate Change and Climate Impacts research groups at Leeds.

You will have, or be close to obtaining, a PhD in the field of Atmospheric Science, Climate Science or Climate Impacts, and have extensive experience of using models and observations to study physical climate and/or climate impacts. You will have evidence of a strong commitment to publishing scientific results at an international level.

Main duties and responsibilities

- Liaising with project partners from the outset, sharing your knowledge and expertise in order to orient and integrate the climate modelling results with the broader project aims;
- Working collaboratively with Prof Maycock and Prof Challinor to ensure the objectives and deliverables of the Ambrosia project are successfully met;



- Analysing observational datasets (e.g., E-OBS) to establish the variability and trends in observed European climate extremes;
- Analysing global and regional climate model datasets (e.g., CMIP6, EURO-CORDEX, UKCP18) to investigate future projections of climate and climate extremes in Europe, with an emphasis on compound extremes that pose a risk to food safety (e.g., high humidity and temperature events);
- Evaluating the sources of uncertainty in climate change projections for Europe and how these can be communicated to stakeholders in the food sector;
- 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;
- Preparing papers for publication in leading international journals and disseminating research results through other recognised forms of output;
- Working both independently and also 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.

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

- A PhD or near completion - i.e. the initial thesis needs to have been handed in at the point of application in meteorology, atmospheric science, climate impacts, or climate science or a closely allied discipline;
- A strong background in scientific programming (e.g. Python, Matlab) and data analysis;
- Extensive experience of analysing complex datasets including weather or climate observations and model output;



- Demonstrated experience of conducting research and ability to lead and deliver on key research tasks;
- Excellent knowledge of climate change projections and climate modelling;
- A demonstrable interest in climate change impacts;
- 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 proven track record of peer-reviewed publications in well regarded climate and atmospheric science journals;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills including presentation skills;
- A proven ability to work well both individually and in a team;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development.

Desirable

- Knowledge of the main controls on regional climate changes in Europe;
- Experience of climate-agriculture interactions;
- Experience using storyline and/or scenario approaches to projecting climate change impacts;
- An understanding of the concept of climate risk.

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.

Please note that this post may be suitable for sponsorship under the Skilled Worker visa route but first-time applicants might need to qualify for salary concessions. For more information please visit: www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa

For research and academic posts, we will consider eligibility under the Global Talent visa. For more information please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/global-talent>

Find out more about the [Climate Impacts group](#).

Find out more about the [Physical Climate Change group](#).



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

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 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 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.



Criminal record information

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.

