



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in Climate-Health Attribution, Faculty of Environment



Salary: Grade 7 (£39,105 – £46,485 p.a. depending on experience)

Reporting to: Cathryn Birch

Reference: ENVEE1771

Fixed term for up to 3 years to complete specific time limited work

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

We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements

Research Fellow in Climate-Health Attribution, Faculty of Environment

Overview of the Role

Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have a background in climate science and want to apply your skills to health sciences? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive Universities?

An exciting opportunity has arisen to work within a transdisciplinary project to measure the impacts of extreme heat on maternal and child health. The project will link climate data with around 45 million birth records from Africa, Europe and Latin America to create new indicators for global monitoring systems.

Supervised by Professor Cathryn Birch, Professor John Marsham and Professor Amanda Maycock, you will quantify the impacts of increasing temperatures on health using observations and climate model simulations. You will interact closely with members of the project team from other disciplines and provide weather and climate information and advice where needed. In collaboration with these team members, you will build and test climate-health attribution models that can be upscaled to large regions of the world on digital platforms.

The position is funded by the Wellcome Trust, a global charitable foundation that supports science to solve the urgent health issues. You will work closely with health scientists, epidemiologists, statisticians and social scientists from Trinity College Dublin, University of Cape Town and University of the Witwatersrand.

Main duties and responsibilities

- Evaluating the ability of climate models to represent relevant heat metrics;
- Working together with team members from other disciplines to develop and test climate-health attribution models for maternal and child disease;
- Generating post-processed climate model and observational datasets for project team members from other disciplines;



- Proactively developing and sustaining interactions and collaborations with other partners in the project;
- Providing expert guidance to project team members from other disciplines;
- 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 work;
- 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 climate science or a closely allied discipline;
- An understanding of the principles of climate change attribution and/or the impact of heat extremes on health;
- Experience in handling, bias correcting and post-processing climate model data such as CMIP and CORDEX;
- Strong skills in a programming language such as Python and experience in handling large datasets;



- 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 first-author peer-reviewed publications in high quality 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.
- Willingness to travel overseas for conferences and project meetings.

Desirable

- Proven track record in climate attribution or climate-health research;
- Experience in the subjects of heat stress, health burden modelling or health sciences;
- Experience in working within a transdisciplinary team.

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 [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.

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](#).

