



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

## CANDIDATE BRIEF

**Environmental Data Service Head (Integration and Engagement),  
National Centre for Atmospheric Science, Faculty of Environment**



**Salary: Grade 9 (£58,596 – £67,757 p.a. depending on experience)**

**Reporting to: Stephen Mobbs**

**Reference: ENVNC1029**

**Fixed term for 4 years to complete specific time limited work**

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

**We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements**

# Environmental Data Service Head (Integration and Engagement), National Centre for Atmospheric Science, School of Environment, Faculty of Environment

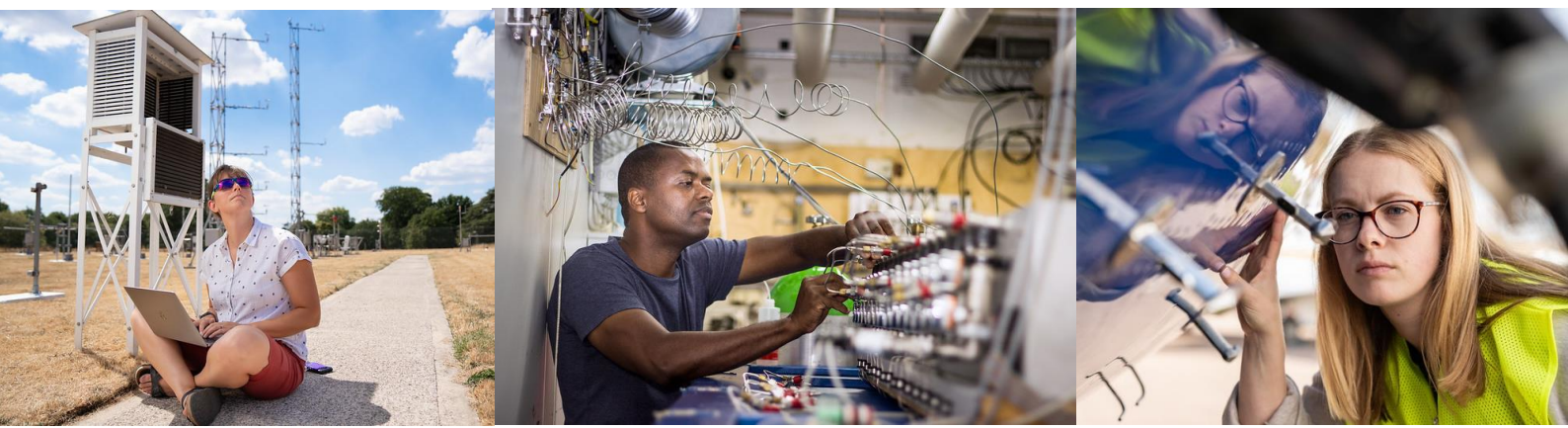
## Overview of the Role

**Are you an inspirational leader with highly developed strategic insight into current and future technical and user-focused requirements for environmental data services? Do you have extensive experience of developing and enhancing user engagement in a data service setting? Would you like to play a central role in the delivery of increasingly integrated services across the full breadth of environmental science to meet the environmental data needs of stakeholders and users across the UK and beyond? If so, we want to hear from you!**

The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) [Environmental Data Service](#) (EDS) provides integrated data services across the breadth of NERC's data holdings and coordinates closer collaboration and development between NERC's five environmental data centres.

Data is central to modern understanding of our environment. Environmental science is underpinned by access to high quality sources of data and data services. As the principal funder of environmental science in the UK, NERC has supported comprehensive data services and policies since its creation over 50 years ago. Today NERC has five Environmental Data Centres embedded within its Research Centres:

- The British Oceanographic Data Centre (BODC) provides data and services across marine science and is embedded within the National Oceanography Centre;
- The Centre for Environmental Data Analysis (CEDA) provides both atmospheric and Earth Observation data and is embedded within the National Centre for Atmospheric Science and the National Centre for Earth Observation.
- The Environmental Information Data Centre (EIDC) supports the data requirements of the terrestrial and freshwater sciences and is embedded within the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology;



- The UK Polar Data Centre (PDC) is responsible for all of the UK's polar data holdings and associated services and is embedded within the British Antarctic Survey;
- The National Geoscience Data Centre (NDGC) provides geoscience and subsurface data and services and is embedded within the British Geological Survey.

Each of the five environmental data centres specialises in data within a particular sub-discipline of environmental science and serves not only NERC's science community but also a much broader community of users and stakeholders, which span research, industry, education, government and voluntary organisations. At the same time, science and its applications are becoming increasingly multi-disciplinary. Often users of NERC data will need to access the services provided by multiple data centres.

In order to serve an ever-growing community of data users and stakeholders, in 2018 NERC created its Environmental Data Service to coordinate across the data centres. During its first five years the EDS has provided growing coordination between NERC's data centres, both for user services and the development of new, discipline-independent services.

NERC has recently recommissioned its data services for the period 2023-2028. As a consequence, the EDS is embarking on an ambitious plan to deliver increasingly integrated services across the full breadth of NERC science and meeting the environmental data needs of stakeholders and users across the UK and beyond.

As part of this development, the EDS wishes to recruit an inspirational leader who will help to drive increasing integration between the five data centres and deepen its engagement with environmental data users and providers.

The principal role of the EDS Head (Integration and Engagement) is to lead the coordination and integration of data services and associated developments across NERC's established environmental data centres.

During the period 2018-2023, the EDS has developed and implemented a range of integrated services which provide a focal point for scientific data and information spanning all environmental science domains: atmosphere and climate, earth



observation, polar and cryosphere, marine, terrestrial and freshwater, geoscience, solar and space physics.

Over the next four years the NERC environmental data centres will maintain and refine their range of discipline specific services whilst working collaboratively around a vision for a transition to a single, federated EDS within which services and policies are delivered at the most appropriate level. User needs will drive this development, which will lead to increasing visibility of the EDS and improved access to environmental science data, leading directly to support for the NERC Digital Strategy.

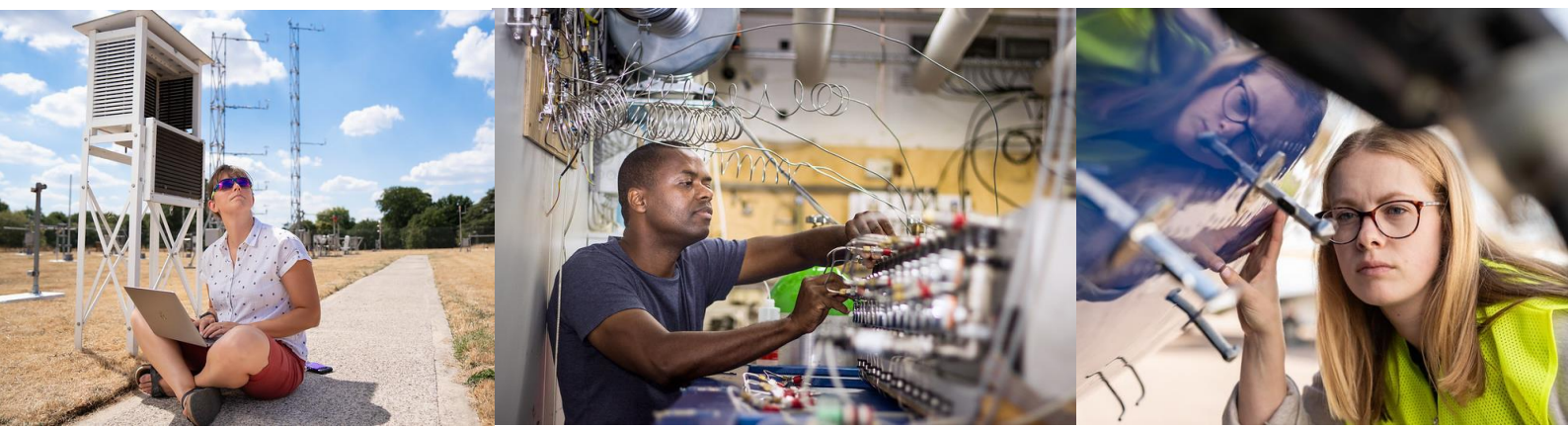
The role of EDS Head (Integration and Engagement) is to provide visionary leadership for this collaborative development.

The role holder will report to the chair of the EDS Management Board (currently the Executive Director of NCAS).

*The role is hosted by the National Centre for Atmospheric Science located at the University of Leeds. The role is employed by the University of Leeds.*

## **Main duties and responsibilities**

- Developing and maintaining a full understanding of the data management practices, policies and applications at each NERC Environmental Data Centre (technologies, software, standards used, stakeholders, training, etc.) and establish good working relationships with each data centre;
- Leading the continuous development and facilitate the implementation of a Roadmap for the EDS, working closely with the data centre Heads and seeking the support and approval of the EDS Management Board and NERC;
- Coordinating and facilitating activities across the data centres, seeking areas where integration can create added value and efficiency, and consulting closely with users;
- Coordinating and prioritising the development of new capabilities and services across the data centres in consultation with users and stakeholders;
- Identifying opportunities and leading appropriate funding bids to support and enhance both short-term and longer-term opportunities for the EDS, providing appropriate coordination of both planning and delivery;



- Recognising that NERC's National Capability funding sustains no more than half of the EDS activities, work with the data centres' hosting research centres to develop a strategy for long-term sustainability of the EDS;
- Coordinating the development and review of harmonised cross-EDS policies and guidance documents (e.g., data policy, digital preservation policy, DOI guidance, data value checklist, staff development and training needs, user support, confidential data management and governance, etc.);
- Leading the engagement between the EDS and other relevant NERC programmes (e.g., Digital Solutions, Constructing a Digital Environment, the JASMIN super-data-cluster, etc.);
- Leading future collaborations between the EDS and other external data services and communities, including (but not limited to) health sciences, engineering and other sciences;
- Coordinating the development and implementation of a cross-EDS training programme, identifying user needs and seeking appropriate external funding;
- Working with the communication teams in the data centres and their hosting research centres, develop and implement a cross-EDS strategy for communication, furthering user and stakeholder awareness of EDS capabilities and achievements;
- Providing regular management reports concerning the operation and requirements of the EDS to the EDS Management Board;
- Leading the EDS reporting to NERC and coordinate the production of an EDS annual report;
- Coordinating the adoption of the UKRI Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) strategy across EDS, ensuring EDS actively contributes to the implementation of NERC's EDI Living Action Plan;
- Coordinating with NERC and UKRI on the implementation of all data service-relevant elements of UKRI's strategy for environmental sustainability.

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

- Substantial experience of delivering user-focused data services in a science context;
- Excellent understanding of modern data policies and standards, such as FAIR, TRUST principles, CoreTrustSeal, data publication and DOIs;
- Extensive experience of developing and enhancing user engagement in a data service setting;
- Substantial experience of leading teams in a data service or data technical support context;
- Highly developed strategic insight into current and future technical and user-focused requirements for environmental data services;
- An ability to develop and maintain constructive professional relationships through excellent interpersonal, communication and team working skills;
- An understanding and appreciation of equality, diversity and inclusion principles and practices, including a commitment to embedding EDI across the environmental data service;
- A demonstrable commitment to personal and professional skills development, and actively supporting the development of others.

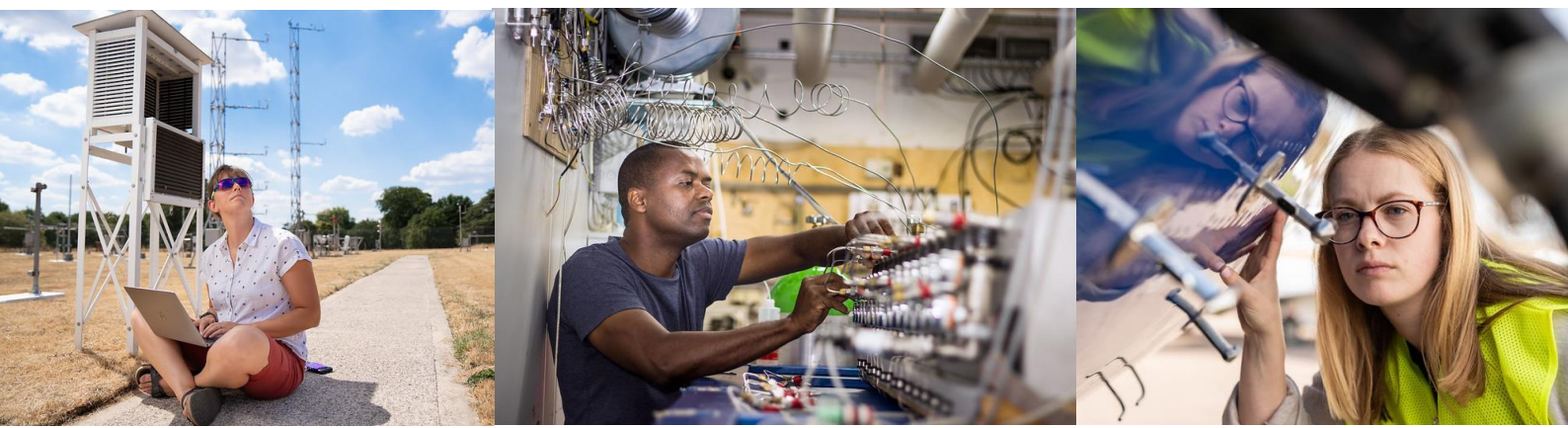
### Desirable

- Experience of budget planning in a scientific service environment;
- Experience of successfully bidding for funding in a scientific service environment.

## 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](https://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 [NERC Environmental Data Service](#)

Find out more about the [National Centre for Atmospheric Science](#) and [its relationship with the School of Earth and Environment](#)

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.

### **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**

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.

### **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 [foehr@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:foehr@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.

