



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

UK Centre for Greening Finance and Investment (CGFI)

PGR Industry Internship



Salary: Grade 6 (£32,296 – £37,999 p.a.)

Reference: BUSAF1015

Closing date: 16 December

Fixed term (6 months because to complete specific time limited work) available from 1 February 2025 full time:

Location: UK CGFI Leeds Innovation Hub, Nexus – University of Leeds, Discovery Way, Leeds LS2 3AA (with scope for hybrid working)

'We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements.'

UK Centre for Greening Finance and Investment (CGFI) PGR Industry Internship

Internship opportunity in partnership with Priestley Centre for Climate Futures and Building Societies Association

Are you a current University of Leeds postgraduate researcher or nearing the completion of your studies (including waiting your award), with an interest in physical climate risks and science of effectively communicating these risks to diverse audiences, including the financial sector and its stakeholders? Would you like to gain valuable experience and apply your skills in the finance industry?

The [UK Centre for Greening Finance and Investment \(CGFI\)](#) is a national centre established to accelerate the adoption and use of climate and environmental data and analytics by financial institutions internationally. It aims to unlock opportunities for the UK to lead in greening finance and financing green. It involves several Universities (Bristol, Imperial, Leeds, Oxford, Reading), research institutes and stakeholders from the finance sector.

[UK CGFI Leeds Innovation Hub](#), based at Nexus – University of Leeds, acts as a platform to connect wider UK science and innovation with financial institutions, providing a route by which needs are understood and the latest climate and environmental science is made accessible, commercialised, and exported globally, placing the UK as global hub for climate and environmental analytics (CEA) for financial institutions.

The UK CGFI Leeds Innovation Hub is seeking a current Leeds postgraduate researcher (PGR) (including waiting your award), to join them as an intern. This role offers the opportunity to work in a professional office environment, collaborating with industry partners in the building societies sector on a project focused on assessing and managing some of the pressing climate risk challenges to building societies, particularly around consumer awareness and decision-making in relation to mortgage related risks.

Based at the hub, you will have the opportunity to work with post-doctoral researchers and industry partners on developing communication tools and decision-making



frameworks. These will include ‘tailored’ storylines grounded in climate science, designed to translate climate risk insights into actionable financial strategies for both borrowers (consumers) and lenders (building societies).

The collaborative partner, the Building Societies Association (BSA), will offer industry-specific insights and co-supervision, facilitating the integration of financial climate risk knowledge and consumer-focused risk storylines into decision-making and business operations.

The intern will be responsible for delivering outcomes associated with the collaborative project, including developing and testing framework for vulnerability-led storyline narratives, reporting on their effectiveness, and delivering actionable recommendations for building societies. These efforts aim to enhance their ability to communicate climate risks to consumers and strengthen internal decision-making processes, ultimately supporting financial resilience.

To achieve these goals, the intern will be working closely with the BSA’s Climate Risk Steering Group (CRSG), academic collaborators, and wider stakeholder communities, as well as colleagues at the Leeds Innovation Hub. Engagement with the CRSG is crucial to ensuring a deep understanding of the building societies’ needs and co-creation of project deliverables.

The position will be employed at [Leeds University Business School](#), and also have connection to the [Priestley Centre for Climate Futures](#), and the [Building Societies Association](#).

Main duties and responsibilities

- **Conducting research** to develop effective communication methods for conveying physical climate risks (e.g., floods and overheating) to non-climate experts among building societies’ stakeholders.
- **Developing robust framework** for creating tailored storylines grounded in learnings from climate scenarios built upon spatial analytics of exposure and vulnerability of the assets, thus translating complex climate data into meaningful and accessible narratives for both internal decision-makers and external consumers.
- **Reporting and documenting**, including actionable outcomes from the project.



including recommendations tailored to building societies' operational needs.

This will involve:

- Collaborating with UK CGFI researchers to leverage their expertise in climate risk analytics.
- Working with BSA members to understand their perspectives and insights regarding climate risk and consumer behaviour.
- Co-developing and co-creating a methodology that incorporates:
 - Current understanding of financial climate risk.
 - Insights into consumer behaviour.
 - Future climate projections and uncertainties.
- Integrating these elements into storylines tailored for:
 - Consumers.
 - Decision-makers within building societies.
 - Designing sequential narratives that are self-explanatory and visually intuitive, connecting cascading hazard scenarios such as extreme rainfall leading to:
 - Flooding.
 - Infrastructure access failures.
 - Heatwaves driving:
 - Increased energy demand.
 - Triggering risks such as overheating and fires.
- Communicating these scenarios effectively to ensure that stakeholders can make informed decisions.
- Reporting:
 - Project progress updates
 - Documenting methodologies and its effectiveness
 - Highlight actionable outcomes
 - Creating comprehensive reports
 - Present findings

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.



Outcomes

- **Enhanced Understanding of Climate-Related Risks:** Focused on providing a clear understanding of risks specific to the financial sector, particularly for building societies.
- **Creation of Narrative-Based Tools:** Development of tailored storylines and accompanying visualisations to illustrate risk scenarios and strategies for managing financial resilience.
- **Development of a Framework:** Establishing a structured approach for creating narratives and formulating actionable recommendations.

Impacts

- **Improved Resilience of Building Societies:** Enhancing their ability to withstand climate risks by developing tailored communication strategies and actionable insights that address both immediate and long-term vulnerabilities.
- **Risk-Informed Business Decisions:** Facilitating informed decision-making through the integration of climate and financial analytics, connected by a cohesive storyline approach.
- **Contribution to the UK's Leadership in Climate Analytics:** Supporting efforts to bridge climate science and financial risk management, thus aiding in the achievement of net-zero and broader sustainability targets in the finance sector.

Qualifications and skills

Essential

- **Current Enrolment:** Must be a
 - current University of Leeds postgraduate researcher, with academic supervisor approval to pause studies if currently enrolled mid-course
 - or nearing the completion of your studies (also those awaiting or have received their MSc award within 6 months of the start date).



- **Specialist Knowledge:** Background in social sciences, or a related discipline gained through your studies, with a focus on behavioural sciences, decision-making or risk communication.
- **Introductory Analytical Skills:** Experience in social science research, particularly in consumer behaviour, organisational behaviour, or psychology of communication.
- **Excellent Communication Skills:** Proven ability to collaborate effectively with industry partners and present findings clearly and confidently to diverse audiences, including non-experts.

Desirable

- **Experience in Communicating Climate Risk:**
 - Ability to convey complex climate risk information, through tailored narratives and visual materials, making data accessible and actionable for diverse stakeholders.
 - Familiarity with physical storylines as a communication tool to illustrate real-world scenarios and enhance understanding of climate risks.
- **Quantitative and Qualitative Analysis Skills:**
 - Proficiency in methods such as regression analysis, interviews, or scenario-based focus group activity techniques.
 - Background in marketing research or related consumer engagement techniques, such as those gained in an MSc in Marketing.
- **Familiarity with the Climate Finance Sector:**
 - Knowledge of physical climate risk and their impact on financial decision-making.
 - Insights into consumer engagement or decision-making in climate-affected sectors.

Additional information

Location

UK CGFI Innovation Hub, Nexus – University of Leeds (with scope for hybrid working).

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 and School

As an international research-intensive university, we welcome students and staff from all walks of life. We foster an inclusive environment where all can flourish and prosper, and we are proud of our strong commitment to student education.

At Leeds University Business School we work hard to ensure that our shared University values (collaboration, compassion, inclusivity and integrity) guide all our activities. We are committed to developing our culture so that we are able to work together to deliver our purpose to “make an exceptional impact on the economy, society and the planet”. We aim to do this by pursuing our goals of developing innovative solutions for society and building a community of responsible leaders.

Everyone at the Business School has a part to play in realising this vision - whether you are involved in education, research, external engagement or professional support. Everyone has skills, knowledge, talent and experience of value - we all have something to offer and we all have a part to play in contributing to collective success. This is at the heart of who we are and how we treat one another. We want all colleagues to feel excited about going to work, to feel valued, to be challenged, to feel part of something bigger and to have fun along the way. To make this a reality we expect all colleagues to champion our shared values, to help us to strengthen our culture and to contribute to our common purpose.

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, 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.

The Priestley International Centre for Climate brings together world-leading expertise in all the key strands of climate change research. Climate change and its impact on society and ecosystems is a global challenge. The Centre is providing international solutions to meet this challenge.



Effective policy and other social and technical solutions need to be underpinned by robust research and the Priestley Centre's focus is on new interdisciplinary research partnerships that link our physical, technological, economic, and social understanding of climate change with strategies for mitigation and adaptation.

Nexus brings together the brightest minds from business, technology, and academia. The Nexus community of high growth businesses is located across the globe but has its physical base in a state-of-the-art innovation hub on the University of Leeds campus.

Nexus provides bespoke support to help stimulate innovation and deliver rapid commercial impact and helps to bridge the gap between business and academia, to enable new and established businesses to thrive.

Information for disabled candidates

Information for disabled candidates, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found under the 'Accessibility' heading on our [How to Apply](#) information page or by getting in touch by [emailing HR via hr@leeds.ac.uk](mailto: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.

Salary Requirements of the Skilled Worker Visa Route

G6 - Please note that due to Home Office visa requirements, this role may only be suitable for first-time Skilled Worker visa applicants if they are eligible for salary concessions. For more information, please visit [the Government's Skilled Worker visa page](#).

