



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in Socio-ecological Coral Reef Adaptation, Faculty of Biological Sciences



Salary: Grade 7 (£39,105 - £46,485 p.a.)

Reference: FBSBY1207

Available on a fixed-term basis until 31st Dec 2026 (to complete specific time limited work).

This role will be based *on the university campus*. We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements.

Research Fellow in Socio-ecological Coral Reef Adaptation

School of Biology

Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have an established background in coral reef climate science and quantitative ecology? Do you have skills in project and programme delivery? Do you want to further your career in one of the UKs leading research intensive Universities?

We are running [ClimateREEFS](#), a project that aims to identify adaptive reefs from space and to reduce climate vulnerability of people relying on those reefs. We are recruiting a person with expertise and interest in both quantitative coral reef ecology and socio-economics of reef fisheries. They will be employed under a collaborative project linking institutions from Indonesia, the Philippines, UK, and USA. The research role will integrate remote sensing outputs, ecological adaptive processes, and gender and socially inclusive adaptive criteria to understand socio-ecological adaptation pathways and inform policy, ranging from the village to national level. In the role, you will also work with early career researchers in capacity strengthening, coaching them through the data analysis and writing process. We will combine data from research approaches ranging from coral reef genomics, eDNA, and visual census, to socio-economic and gender/ social inclusion relevant questionnaires.

We are looking for applicants with a relevant PhD, strong expertise in statistical modelling of social and / or ecological data with frequentist and bayesian approaches, ideally with direct experience in coral reef ecology or fisheries, and an understanding of both ecology and socio-economic issues in reef fisheries. Applicants should also have experience in knowledge transfer of scientific skills, with experience or interest knowledge transfer to Global South Early Career Researchers. Some field expertise (SCUBA diving, and or household surveys) would be beneficial.

What we offer in return

- 26 days holiday plus approx.16 Bank Holidays/days that the University is closed by custom (including Christmas) – That's 42 days a year!
- Generous pension scheme plus life assurance– the University contributes 14.5% of salary
- Health and Wellbeing: Discounted staff membership options at The Edge, our state-of-the-art Campus gym, with a pool, sauna, climbing wall, cycle circuit, and sports halls.



- Personal Development: Access to courses run by our Organisational Development & Professional Learning team.
- Access to on-site childcare, shopping discounts and travel schemes are also available.

And much more!

The University of Leeds and the Faculty of Biological Sciences are committed to providing equal opportunities for all and offer a range of family friendly policies. The University is a charter member of Athena SWAN (the national body that promotes gender equality in higher education), and the Faculty of Biological Sciences was awarded a Silver award in 2020. We are proud to be an inclusive Faculty that values all staff, and are happy to consider job share applications and requests for flexible working arrangements from our employees. Our Athena SWAN [webpage](#) provides more information.

Main Duties & Responsibilities

- Designing, planning and conducting a programme of investigation, in consultation with Professor Maria Beger and Co-Is and collaborators within the consortium;
- Generating independent and original research ideas and methods in socio-ecological coral reef and coastal fisheries adaptation, with an aim to extend the Marine Transition Lab's and the consortium's research portfolio;
- Making a significant contribution to the dissemination of research results by publication in leading peer-reviewed journals, and by presentation at national and international meetings;
- Contributing to the supervision and capacity building of junior researchers and PhD students and acting as a mentor to less experienced colleagues;
- Evaluating methods and techniques used and results obtained by other researchers and relating such evaluations to your own research;
- Working independently and as part of a larger team of researchers, both internally and externally, to develop new research links and collaborations and engage in knowledge transfer activities where appropriate;
- To contribute to, and to encourage, a safe working environment;
- Provide support to the PI in reporting and documenting activities to funders;
- Manage coral reef fieldwork logistics if required;
- Communicating and liaising with international project collaborators.



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 in quantitative ecology or social science, coral reef ecology, reef climate science, or a closely allied discipline;
- Demonstrated experience in and a strong understanding of social and ecological statistical modelling in R, with frequentist and bayesian approaches, ideally within a coral reef context;
- Demonstrated experience with integrating socio-economic and ecological quantitative data;
- The ability to design, execute, and scientifically write up interdisciplinary research independently, with a developing track record of peer reviewed publications in international journals;
- Experience in supporting or teaching others data analysis and scientific writing, with an ability to coach Global South young researchers through the publication process - from conception to data analysis to write-up for publication;
- A proven ability to work well both independently and as part of a team, with a strong commitment to gender equality and social inclusion;
- Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal, including communicating with people from different cultures, fields, and organisations;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development.

Desirable

- Evidence of pursuing external funding to support research;
- Experience in the implementation of socio-ecological network analysis;
- An understanding of multi-component diversity measures, such as hill numbers;
- High-level SCUBA diving qualifications that allow a leadership role in the field, at least PADI Divemaster or equivalent and 300+ research dives in the tropics, at this stage there is no plans for fieldwork though, so this experience will help support any opportunistic fieldwork;
- Experience of initiating and developing external relations with potential collaborative partners.



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.

Your application should include:

- A supporting statement providing detailed evidence to support each selection criteria listed on the 'What will you bring to the role' section of the Candidate Brief (no more than five sides of A4, minimum font size 11);
- An academic curriculum vitae, including a list of your publications;

Contact information

To explore the post further or for any queries you may have, please contact:

[Maria Beger](#), Professor in Conservation Science

Email: m.beger@leeds.ac.uk

Additional information

Find out more about the [Faculty of Biological Sciences](#) and the [School of Biology](#)

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 Biological Sciences 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, those 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.

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 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).

Salary Requirements of the Skilled Worker Visa Route

Please note: If you are not a British or Irish citizen, 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, this may be your 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 [the Government's Skilled Worker visa page](#).

For research and academic posts, we will consider eligibility under the Global Talent visa. For more information, please visit [the Government's page, Apply for the Global Talent visa](#).

Security checks

Appointment to this post will be subject to appropriate security checks being carried out with your permission by a third party company

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.

