



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

## CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in Plant Water Relations of Tropical Forest Trees,  
Faculty of Environment



**Salary: Grade 7 (£39,355 – £46,735 p.a. depending on experience)**

**Reporting to: Professor David Galbraith**

**Reference: ENVGE1268**

**Fixed term for up to 26 months to complete specific time limited work**

**Location: University of Leeds (with scope for hybrid working) with overseas fieldwork in Brazil**

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

# Research Fellow in Plant Water Relations of Tropical Forest Trees, Faculty of Environment

## Overview of the Role

We are looking for a tropical plant ecophysiologicalist to be part of the project team for a [new forest drought experiment in the southern Amazon](#) that seeks to evaluate the survival limits of rainforest trees under intense drought.

The successful candidate will be responsible for leading data collection and analysis and for training postgraduate students based in partner institutes in Brazil and will be expected to spend prolonged periods of time in Mato Grosso, Brazil. More specifically, the position will focus on the development and application of methods to continuously monitor plant water potential of adult canopy trees that will allow for high-frequency whole plant conductance monitoring.

## Main duties and responsibilities

- Developing and evaluating methods to continuously measure plant water potential in a remote tropical forest site (e.g. using Internet of Things approaches);
- Leading analysis and researching articles on the hydraulic mechanisms associated with drought-induced tree mortality;
- Training and co-supervising postgraduate students based at partner institutes in Brazil, in data collection, analysis and preparation of project manuscripts;
- Leading manuscripts on the impacts of drought on the plant water relations of tropical trees;
- 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 articles 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 (which must have been awarded at the point of application) in Plant Ecophysiology or a closely allied discipline;
- Demonstrated capacity to develop sensors of relevance to the project;
- Strong commitment to training and developing early career researchers in Brazil;
- Fluency in Brazilian Portuguese and willingness to spend extended periods of time in Brazil;
- Strong analytical skills, using R or equivalent software;
- Ability to interact well with a wide range of partners and collaborators both in the UK and in Brazil;
- 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 developing track record of peer-reviewed publications in international 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

- Experience working in tropical forests and the challenges of running continuous measurements in these environments;



- Previous experience evaluating drought impacts on tropical trees.

## 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 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: [www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa](http://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 [Faculty of Environment](#)

Find out more about the [School of Geography](#)

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. As this project has a large focus on Brazil, we particularly encourage applications from Brazilian candidates. 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](mailto: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.

