



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Climate Evidence Unit Senior Research Consultant, Priestley Centre for Climate Futures



Salary: Grade 8 (£48,149 – £57,422 p.a. depending on experience)

Reporting to: Priestley Centre Deputy Directors for Policy and Innovation

Reference: ENVFO1131

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

We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements.

Climate Evidence Unit Senior Research Consultant, Priestley Centre for Climate Futures

Overview of the Role

We have an exciting opportunity to work with our world-leading climate-related researchers as part of the [Priestley Centre for Climate Futures](#). The Priestley Centre is the University of Leeds' cross-institutional climate research, innovation and learning centre. From local to global, we ensure that climate action is informed by the latest research, collaborating with organisations and individuals to transform our expertise into real-world impact.

Following a successful pilot, the Priestley Centre is forming an expanded [Climate Evidence Unit](#) (CEU) to provide independent, robust and timely evidence aimed at supporting and challenging decision makers in their efforts to advance rapid decarbonisation of societies and build climate resilience. The CEU is delivering both policy-facing outputs and events, and externally-funded contract work for public, private and third sector organisations, providing the functions of both a policy unit and a business unit. In doing so, the CEU draws on University of Leeds research and expertise to produce targeted and publicly available outputs in the form of rapid evidence reviews, policy analysis, scenario modelling, specialised reports and briefings that fulfil policy needs (policy unit). Alongside this, the CEU is also bidding for and delivering externally-commissioned and contracted work such as evidence synthesis reports, peer-review of products and services, expert advice, consultancy and contract research (business unit).

As part of our expansion of the Climate Evidence Unit, the Priestley Centre is recruiting a Senior Research Consultant. The successful applicant will work with the Priestley Centre community and external organisations to translate existing research into evidence, projects and outputs that maximise climate ambition and action by supporting public and private sector decision making nationally and internationally. Reporting to the Priestley Centre's Deputy Directors for Policy and Innovation, you will leverage academic expertise from a range of disciplines to develop and deliver bespoke outputs and contracted projects.



You will have broad expertise in climate change and significant experience of coordinating diverse teams. We welcome applicants with both a background in climate mitigation and adaptation. You will also have a proven track record in assimilating research findings and translating them for non-academic audiences. You will have a track record of attracting funding for research consultancy projects and delivery. You will act as an ambassador for the Priestley Centre representing the breadth of University of Leeds climate-related activities externally, and by developing and maintaining relationships with key clients and stakeholders.

This is a new role that will be embedded with a broader team of part-time researchers, academics and professional services staff to develop and deliver on the ambitions of the Climate Evidence Unit. The researchers you will be working with have considerable experience of delivering projects for the UK Government and engaging with international policy making processes through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Main duties and responsibilities

- Working with the Priestley Centre's Deputy Directors for Policy and Innovation and key academic leads to develop and deliver the Climate Evidence Unit;
- Developing productive relationships with academics from across the University of Leeds and facilitating opportunities to deliver impact from their research;
- Working with academics from a range of disciplines to produce targeted and publicly available outputs that fulfil policy needs (for c.a. 25 % of the role);
- Working with academics to bid for and deliver externally commissioned consultancy and contract research (for c.a. 75% of the role);
- Developing and managing relationships with external partners from the public and private sector – translating their needs into opportunities for the Climate Evidence Unit and wider Priestley Centre;
- Acting as an interface for client-facing consultancy and contract research, supported by the wider Priestley Centre team. This will include attending meetings with external partners to scope and deliver work and feedback lessons learned into the development of future opportunities;
- Leading and coordinating with a larger pool of part-time researchers delivering work for the Climate Evidence Unit;
- Supporting the development and delivery of training in evidence synthesis processes and broader knowledge translation;



- Analysing and interpreting research evidence using both quantitative and qualitative analysis methods including rapid evidence reviews, and producing bespoke client-facing outputs;
- Preparing project deliverables and presentations in a timely manner;
- Being embedded in the Priestley Centre for Climate Futures team and supporting the delivery of the Centre's overall strategy and objectives through the activities of the Climate Evidence Unit.

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

- Significant relevant experience in a climate-related subject, gained via a PhD or equivalent research experience within the public or private sector alongside a detailed current knowledge of climate change;
- Significant experience working across disciplines with demonstrable ability to lead and facilitate diverse teams to develop and deliver successful outcomes;
- Demonstrable experience of successfully developing and delivering on proposals for contract research or consultancy;
- Demonstrable experience of synthesising research evidence using quantitative and qualitative methodologies;
- A proven track record in delivering policy facing outputs and / or research consultancy on climate change;
- Experience of working with a variety of external partners to scope and deliver policy or business-facing outputs, and creating productive collaborations;
- Strong interpersonal, team working and communication skills with a high level of personal drive and commitment;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, including a demonstrated ability to effectively engage with policy and business audiences including senior executives;
- Excellent time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines, manage competing demands and work effectively under pressure without close support.



Desirable

- Experience working in a large complex organisation or a higher education institution;
- Experience of working with UK and / or international policymakers;
- Experience of working with national and global businesses.

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>.

Priestley Centre for Climate Futures

The Priestley Centre for Climate Futures is a world-leading climate centre based at the University of Leeds. From local to global, we ensure that climate action is informed by the latest research, collaborating with organisations and individuals to transform our expertise into real-world impact. We bring together a community of experts from across disciplines including engineering, finance, health, economics, cultural studies, law, and atmospheric sciences. We connect these climate experts to businesses, policymakers, communities, and other researchers, working collaboratively in integrated networks to transform how we address climate change. Our experts have leading roles in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the UK Climate Change Committee, and several city-level climate commissions.

Find out more about us on our [website](#).



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.

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.

