



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in South Africa's Climate Transition, School of Politics and International Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences



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

Reference: ESLPO1104

1.0 FTE, Fixed-term for 24 months to complete a specific task or time limited work

Location: University Campus (with scope for hybrid working)

We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements

Research Fellow in South Africa's Climate Transition

POLIS, Faculty of Social Sciences

Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have a background in South African politics and climate transitions? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research-intensive Universities?

The successful candidate will work alongside Dr Alex Beresford (POLIS) to deliver the outputs and impact work relating to a project funded by the University of Leeds' International Strategy Fund and the Faculty of Social Sciences. The project explores South Africa's energy transition from coal-power to renewables and, in particular, the responses of organised labour to the proposed changes. This is a fixed term post for the duration of the project and the successful candidate will be expected to co-author research outputs with Dr Beresford and also to help deliver policy briefs and educational materials with our South African partners. The data has already been collected for the project and the successful candidate will need to be able to work immediately on the project's final stages of delivery. Expertise in both energy transitions and South African politics are therefore essential. As a researcher you will be given support with your career development and it is expected that you will emerge from the project with an outstanding track record of internationally excellent academic outputs and impact work.

What does the role entail?

As a Research Fellow your main duties will include:

- Working with and in support of Dr Alex Beresford's research grant to ensure the project is successfully completed;
- Generating and pursuing 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, where appropriate preparing proposals for further funding in collaboration with colleagues;
- Helping with the administration of the project, including liaising with international partners and organising research activities;
- Developing and expanding the international networks of academics and practitioners involved with the project;



- Contributing to building an active research centre on climate justice at the University of Leeds;
- Preparing papers for publication in leading international journals and independently writing reports;
- Working as part of a team of researchers, engaging in knowledge-transfer activities with the South African trade union partners, including educational materials about the climate crisis and just transition;
- Maintaining your own continuing professional development and acting as a mentor to less experienced colleagues as appropriate;
- Contributing to the research culture of the School, where appropriate;
- Contributing to the training of both undergraduate and postgraduate students, where appropriate, 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.

What will you bring to the role?

As a Research Fellow you will have:

- A first degree and PhD (or close to completion) in Political Science, Area Studies, or International Relations;
- A strong background in South African politics and energy transitions with an emerging track record of academic publications in this area;
- Demonstrated experience of conducting research;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines and work effectively under pressure;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills including presentation skills and the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of stakeholders;
- Proven ability to manage competing demands effectively, responsibly and without close support;
- A proven ability to work well both individually and in a team;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development.

You may also have:



- A track record of successful, high quality, publications on climate politics and/or just transition.

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.

Contact information

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

Dr Alex Beresford, Associate Professor in African Politics

Email: a.beresford@leeds.ac.uk

Additional information

You will be responsible to the Executive Dean of Faculty and report to the Head of School.

Find out more about our School – [hyperlink to school](#).

Find out more about the [Faculty of Social Sciences](#).

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 School of Law 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. We have identified that women are currently underrepresented in this role and particularly welcome applications. Candidates will always be selected based on merit and ability.

Information for disabled candidates

Information for disabled candidates, or candidates with 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

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.

You can find out more about required checks and declarations in our [Criminal Records](#) information page.

Salary Requirements of the Skilled Worker Visa Route

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>

