



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in Regenerative Agriculture, Faculty of Environment



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

Reporting to: Professor Guy Ziv

Reference: ENVGE1273

Fixed term until 31 October 2025 to complete specific time limited work

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

We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements

Research Fellow in Regenerative Agriculture, Faculty of Environment

Overview of the Role

Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have an established background in soil science? Do you want to further your career in one of the UKs leading research intensive Universities?

You will work as part of a team on the EU project [Novosoil](#). Novosoil is a Horizon Europe project that highlights the benefits of investing in soil for society and the environment. It will propose a toolbox of good practices, models and business cases drawn from different parts of Europe and beyond to promote sustainable soil management under different land uses and climatic conditions while promoting soil health.

The University of Leeds is investigating the impact of Regenerative Farming on soil health. We need a Research Fellow to continue to determine the impact of regenerative agricultural practices on soil properties. You will be responsible for collecting soil samples from farms across Yorkshire, and analysing them in the laboratory. You will also be responsible for analysing the data and dissemination of the results in a range of written formats and orally at farm events, workshops and conferences.

You will have a first degree in one of the following subjects; biological sciences, environmental science, ecology, geography, soil science or agriculture, and a PhD in soil science, sustainable agriculture, agri-environment or closely allied discipline.

You will work under the guidance of Professor Pippa Chapman and Professor Guy Ziv (School of Geography) to quantify the regenerative benefits of different farming practices. We will support you to develop your independence as a researcher through training and mentoring, whilst also providing opportunities to develop your grant writing skills.



Main duties and responsibilities

- The collection and analysis of soil samples from farms across Yorkshire;
- Statistical analysis of soil data and use of soil health indicators;
- Contributing to, and encouraging, a safe working environment;
- Working with a small team of technicians;
- Generating independent and original research ideas and methods to assess different approaches to regenerative agriculture practices;
- 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;
- Making a significant contribution to the dissemination of research results by publication in leading peer-reviewed journals, preparation of policy briefs, and by organising demonstration and training events for stakeholders as appropriate;
- 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 or near completion - i.e. the initial thesis needs to have been handed in at the point of application in soil science sustainable agriculture, agri-environment or a closely allied discipline such as (but not limited to) biology, geography or environmental science;



- Understanding of agricultural systems and practices, including Regenerative and Conventional farming systems;
- Experience of soil sampling and analysis for a range of physical, chemical and biological properties;
- Strong analytical skills, with the ability to work accurately and carefully, designing, executing and writing up research independently and with a team;
- 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 communication skills, both written and verbal and the ability to communicate your research at national and international conferences to wide range of stakeholders including farmers, NGO's, policymakers and agribusinesses;
- A proven ability to work well both individually and in a team;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development;
- A full UK driving licence.

Desirable

- Working knowledge of coding languages (e.g. Matlab, R, Python, etc.) and data analysis techniques;
- Experience of managing others (e.g. field assistants).

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

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. 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.



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.

