



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in Sustainable Mobility Transitions in Sub-Saharan Africa, Faculty of Environment



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

Reporting to: Dr Sheridan Few

Reference: ENVEE1822

Fixed term for up to 18 months 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 Sustainable Mobility Transitions in Sub-Saharan Africa, Faculty of Environment

Overview of the Role

Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have a background in transport modelling or equivalent expertise? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research-intensive Universities? If so, then this role working as part of the 'Moving IMPACT: Integrated Means to Power Agriculture, Clean Cooking and Transportation' project could be the job for you.

Moving IMPACT is a £3.6m research project funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council that brings together collaborative teams from the UK, Ghana, Rwanda, and Kenya to explore how solar mini-grids integrated with electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure can meet agricultural and community energy needs in Sub-Saharan Africa, advancing sustainable energy access and local development.

You will be based in the Sustainability Research Institute of the School of Earth and Environment, working with Dr Sheridan Few, as well as other members of the project from academia and industry in other UK and international institutions.

The University of Leeds leads a research theme on electric mobility. Working closely with in-country partners, the University of Leeds team will clarify electric vehicle charging infrastructure needs and understand the broader business model and institutional needs. This will begin by focusing on high-utilisation vehicles like taxis and e-trikes. Working with a health centre in rural Ghana, we will also explore ways in which co-locating charging infrastructure can support both health and mobility outcomes.

The successful candidate would be responsible for the more technical parts of this project, leading the computational modelling of charging infrastructure required to meet electric mobility goals. You would work closely with another researcher on the project focussing on associated governance and business model arrangements, and could also contribute to research in this area.



Main duties and responsibilities

- Using and developing computational models to inform charging infrastructure requirement to meet electric mobility goals;
- Gathering and managing geographical data on vehicle movements to inform the above modelling;
- Working closely with UK and international partners to ensure modelling and analysis supports the achievement of sustainable mobility goals;
- 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 papers 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 or near completion - i.e. the initial thesis needs to have been handed in at the point of application in sustainable transport, energy access or a closely allied discipline;
- A strong background in computational modelling of complex systems (preferably transport and/or energy systems);



- 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;
- Willingness and ability to travel to Ghana and Rwanda for field work.

Desirable

- Experience of pursuing external funding to support research;
- Experience of developing and using models in Python;
- Experience of conducting modelling and analysis using geographical data;
- Experience of working with partners outside of an academic context to support policy or organisational decision making;
- Experience of working in an African context.

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>

Find out more about the [Faculty of Environment](#)

Find out more about the [School of Earth and Environment](#)

Find out more about our [Research and Associated Facilities](#)



Find out more about [equality in the faculty](#)

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 Faculty/School 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, 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.

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.

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).

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 page.

