



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Climate Evidence Unit Researchers (3 posts), Priestley Centre for Climate Futures



Salary: Grade 7 (£41,064 – £48,822 p.a. pro-rata depending on experience)

Reporting to: Professor John Barrett

Reference: PSFUI1007

Part time: 25% FTE (9 hours 23 minutes per week)

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

We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements

Please note, this role is open to current University of Leeds staff and PGRs only

Climate Evidence Unit Researchers (3 posts), Priestley Centre for Climate Futures

Overview of the Role

Are you an ambitious researcher with extensive experience working on climate change? Do you have a commitment to delivering collaborative, research-led climate policy and innovation? Can you work with university experts and external partners across a range of disciplines to deliver research consultancy for the public, private and third sector?

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 number of Researchers. The successful applicants 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 expertise in climate change and significant experience of working as part of diverse teams. We welcome applicants with both a background in climate mitigation and adaptation. You will also have experience in assimilating research findings and translating them for non-academic audiences. 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.

These roles 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 team 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.

The role is open-ended subject to a stage gate review of the Priestley Centre in July 2028.

Main duties and responsibilities

- Supporting the Priestley Centre's Deputy Directors for Policy and Innovation, Senior Research Consultant and key academic leads to deliver the Climate Evidence Unit;
- Developing relationships with external partners from the public and private sector – translating their needs into opportunities for the Climate Evidence Unit and wider Priestley Centre;
- Supporting 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 closely with the Senior Research Consultant and academics to support in preparing proposals and delivery of externally commissioned consultancy and contract research relevant to the Climate Evidence Unit's mission (for c.a. 75% of the role);



- Analysing and interpreting research evidence using both quantitative and qualitative analysis methods including rapid evidence reviews, and producing bespoke client-facing outputs;
- Playing a key role in the shaping projects, this includes contributing to the agreement of scope, oversight, ownership and roles, ensuring strategic alignment and consulting key stakeholders;
- Supporting the Priestley Centre for Climate Futures Deputy Directors for Policy and Innovation and wider team to support 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.

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. We welcome applications from applicants who are currently undertaking a PhD and have significant research experience;
- Demonstrable experience of synthesising research evidence using quantitative and qualitative methodologies;
- Experience of developing policy facing outputs and / or research consultancy on climate change;
- Experience of communicating research to non-academic audiences and working with non-academic stakeholders;
- 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.



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 (on its own) is not suitable for first-time Skilled Worker visa applicants.

Information on other visa options is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/work-visas>

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: www.climate@leeds.ac.uk

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

At the University of Leeds, we are committed to providing a culture of inclusion, respect and equity of opportunity that attracts, supports, and retains the best students and staff from all backgrounds and from across the world. Whatever role we recruit for we are always striving to increase the diversity of our community, which



each individual helps enrich and cultivate. We 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.

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

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.

