



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in Carbon Accounting, Sustainability Research Institute, Faculty of Environment



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

Reporting to: Dr. Jonathan Norman and Dr. Anne Owen

Reference: ENVEE1837

Fixed term for 2.5 years between November 1st 2025 to April 30th 2028. To complete specific time limited work.

Location: Leeds main campus (with scope for hybrid working)

We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements

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Overview of the Role

Are you an ambitious researcher looking to achieve both novel research outputs and policy impacts in the field of carbon accounting? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research-intensive Universities?

This role involves undertaking research on carbon accounting, using multi-regional input-output (MRIO) analysis and related techniques, for a jointly funded project by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ). The research centre entitled, "Production and Consumption Transformations" Centre will explore the alignment of the UK's industrial strategy, and resource consumption policies with both short term and long-term climate targets. With DESNZ funding 35% of the project, you will work directly with senior policy makers delivering actionable insights that can lead to real policy change.

You will join a team with a strong history of applied research in the field of carbon accounting. The University of Leeds has developed a UK specific MRIO (UK MRIO) that is used in producing the UK's consumption emissions accounts for the UK Government¹. You will be required to use quantitative research methods, (including writing and maintaining python code) in developing the UK MRIO for a range of applications, whilst working alongside the wider research team in an inter-disciplinary environment. You will display a strong commitment to applied interdisciplinary research, work effectively in a team environment, show commitment to addressing the climate crisis while also demonstrating a strong background in communicating evidence and insights to multiple stakeholders.



Main duties and responsibilities

- Contributing to the development of the UK MRIO model to ensure increased robustness and consistency. This involves managing and developing the project's python codebase on github;
- Development of approaches to disaggregate production structures within the UK MRIO to give greater definition for scope 3 accounting, providing analysis for Government and industrial partners;
- Assisting in production of the UK's annual consumption based GHG emissions accounts;
- Providing the underlying data for the development of a platform for organisations to estimate scope 3 accounting;
- Organising a “Carbon accounting users group” to engage with key stakeholders;
- Working with others in the team to develop scenario modelling based on the UK MRIO model;
- 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.

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 before starting the role) in carbon accounting, input-output analysis or a closely allied discipline;
- A strong background in multi regional input-output analysis or a related technique;
- A demonstratable level of high numerical literacy;
- Proficiency in writing and maintaining code and using version control in undertaking quantitative analysis;
- The ability to work independently on challenging problems;
- A desire to work on impact focussed applied research in an area with direct policy relevance;
- 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.

Desirable

- Experience using python and github for data processing and analysis;
- Experience in engaging with policymakers and/ or businesses in carbon accounting or a related area;
- Experience of, or a desire to work across disciplines;
- A proven track record of peer-reviewed publications in high impact factor journals;
- Knowledge of scenario building from an interdisciplinary perspective;
- Experience of pursuing external funding to support research;



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 our [School](#).

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.

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.

