



CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in Land-Atmosphere Interactions, Faculty of Environment



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

Reporting to: Dominick Spracklen

Reference: ENVEE1857

Fixed term (for 18 months)

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

We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements

Research Fellow in Land-Atmosphere Interactions

Faculty of Environment

Overview of the Role

We are seeking an enthusiastic and experienced researcher to improve our understanding of land-atmosphere interactions of tropical forests. This position will improve our understanding how tropical forests and tropical deforestation impact local and regional climate with a focus on temperature and rainfall.

In this project you will use state of the art numerical climate models to assess the impacts of different land cover scenarios on local and regional climate. You will evaluate models against in-situ and remote sensed observations of climate.

You will have (or be close to obtaining) a relevant PhD and have expertise in a relevant area of atmospheric science (or a related physical science). You will be able to demonstrate commitment to publication of original results at an international level. Working within a large, vibrant and internationally recognised research team, alongside others working on related projects, the project will offer the opportunity to work in collaboration with leading scientists in the UK and across tropical forest nations.

Main duties and responsibilities

- Design and complete numerical model simulations of tropical deforestation.
- Evaluate forest-climate interactions in model simulations and observations.
- Synthesise available in-situ and remote sensed data on water, energy and carbon for model evaluation (including flux tower data, RAINFOR forest plots, satellite retrieved data of LAI, albedo, ET etc).
- Assess the impacts of tropical forests and deforestation in model simulations.
- 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 Climate Science or a closely allied discipline;
- Detailed knowledge of land-atmosphere interactions in the tropics;
- Experience of setting up and running numerical climate models;
- Experience analysing large datasets using data analysis and visualisation software such as Python;
- Experience of using satellite data and models to assess land-atmosphere interactions in the tropics;
- A proven track record of peer-reviewed publications in high impact factor journals;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines, manage competing demands and work effectively under pressure without close support;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills including presentation skills;
- A proven ability to work well both individually and in a team;

Desirable

- 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 [Equality in the Faculty](#)

Find out more about the [Faculty of Environment](#) and our [School](#).

Find out more about [Athena Swan](#) in the Faculty.

Find out more about our [Research and associated facilities](#)

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. 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.



As an international research-intensive university, we welcome students and staff from all walks of life. 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 Earth and 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.

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

