



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in Cloud Physics, Faculty of Environment



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

Reporting to: Dr Declan Finney

Reference: ENVEE1864

Closing date: 06 March 2026

Fixed term 42 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 Cloud Physics, Faculty of Environment

Overview of the Role

Are you keen to support innovation of UK weather forecasting? Do you have an established background in cloud physics research? Would you like to further your career in a world-leading atmospheric science research centre?

Cloud droplet formation and development plays an important role in weather by affecting precipitation and cloud radiative effects. The Drone Observation Of Clouds (DOOC) project aims to use observations of cloud droplets to improve and evaluate UK regional weather forecasts.

You will lead the modelling component of the project whilst drawing on a range of in-situ, radar, satellite and other observations. You will work closely with the UK Met Office to carry out simulations and produce results that inform development of weather forecasting.

Main duties and responsibilities

- Working as a team to address the objectives of the DOOC project;
- Generating and pursuing independent and original research ideas in the field of cloud physics;
- Developing research objectives and proposals and contributing to setting the direction of the research project and team;
- 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;
- 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 submitted prior to undertaking the post) in atmospheric science, or a closely allied discipline;
- A track record of peer reviewed publications in high quality, international journals, commensurate with career stage;
- A strong background in, and enthusiasm for, understanding cloud processes and their impacts;
- Competent at modifying and running an atmospheric model;
- Competent evaluating model predictions against observations;
- 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;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development.

Desirable

- Expertise in using and modifying the Met Office Unified Model;
- Experience modifying a cloud microphysics model component;
- Familiarity with in-situ, satellite and radar observations
- An understanding of UK weather and climate variability

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 our [School of Earth and Environment](#)

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

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

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

A diverse workforce

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

Find out more about the benefits of working at the University and what it is like to live and work in the Leeds area on 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.

