



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in the Politics of River Rights, School of Politics and International Studies



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

Reporting to: Dr Markus Fraundorfer

Reference: ESLPO1115

Location: School of Politics and International Studies (with scope for hybrid working)

1FTE, 37.5 hours per week

We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements.

Research Fellow in The Politics of River Rights, School of Politics and International Studies

Overview of the Role

Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have an established background in river/water governance? Do you want to further your career in one of the UKs leading research intensive Universities?

We are looking for a highly motivated and enthusiastic candidate for a fully funded 3-year research fellow position as part of the ESRC (UK Economic and Social Research Council) - FAPESP (São Paulo Research Agency) project “**Governing rivers as legal persons: Developing a kin-centric rights framework to address Brazil’s river crisis**”. In this international research project, spanning interdisciplinary research teams at the University of Leeds and São Paulo State University (UNESP), the research fellow will play a key role to explore the politics of river rights in Brazil.

The overarching ESRC-FAPESP project will explore (1) whether recent efforts to grant legal rights to rivers are an effective way to address Brazil’s river crisis and (2) to what extent centuries-old kin-centric traditions in Brazil, embraced by indigenous and other riverine communities, have shaped these recent advocacy efforts for river rights in Brazil.

As part of this position, the research fellow will spend up to six months in Brazil for field research and contribute to the Leeds-based project teams’ overall research activities. Based in the School of Politics and International Studies (POLIS), the research fellow will also collaborate with water@leeds, one of the largest interdisciplinary centres for water-related research worldwide.

Main duties and responsibilities

As a Research Fellow your main duties will include:

- Designing, planning and conducting a programme of investigation, in consultation with Dr Markus Fraundorfer;
- Generating independent and original research ideas and methods in the politics of river governance in Brazil.



- Making a significant contribution to the dissemination of research results by publication in leading peer-reviewed journals, and by presentation at national and international meetings;
- Working independently and as part of a larger team of researchers, both internally and externally, to develop new research links and collaborations and engage in knowledge transfer activities where appropriate;
- Evaluating methods and techniques used and results obtained by other researchers and relating such evaluations to your own research;
- To contribute to, and to encourage, a safe working environment.

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 close to completion) in politics/international relations or a closely allied discipline;
- Experience in river/water governance and/or rights of nature in Latin America, with specific reference to Brazil;
- Portuguese Language skills;
- A social sciences background
- The ability to design, execute and write up research independently;
- A developing track record of peer reviewed publications in international journals;
- Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal, and the ability to communicate your research at national and international conferences;
- Good time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines;
- A proven ability to work well both independently and as part of a team;
- Ability to work accurately and carefully;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development

Desirable

- Familiarity with participatory and collaborative methods, involving local and/or indigenous communities;
- Evidence of pursuing external funding to support research.



How to apply

You can apply for this role online; more guidance can be found on our [How to Apply](#) information page. Applications should be submitted by **23.59** (UK time) on the advertised closing date.

Contact information

To explore the post further or for any queries you may have, please contact:

Dr Markus Fraundorfer, Associate Professor in Global Governance

Email: m.fraundorfer@leeds.ac.uk

Additional information

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 School of Politics and International Studies 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, people 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).

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.

Salary Requirements of the Skilled Worker Visa Route

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>.

