



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

## CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow, in the Political Economy of Electricity  
Provision. School of Earth and Environment



**Salary: Grade 7 (£32,004 – £38,183 p.a.)**

**Reference: ENVEE1156**

**Closing date: 22 May 2017**

**Fixed term for 24 months (External funding)**

# Research Fellow, in the Political Economy of Electricity Provision

## School of Earth and Environment

**Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have a background in economics, political economy, economic geography or ecological economics, and an interest in energy studies? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive Universities?**

You will participate in a radical and visionary Leverhulme Research Leadership project "Living Well Within Limits ([LiLi](#))" awarded to [Dr Julia Steinberger](#), aiming to understand how energy use relates to human well-being with the focus being on the provisioning systems of electricity across multiple countries. The research project will compare and evaluate the performance of different systems of electricity provision, enabling the identification of systems that are able to provide sufficient services to meet universal needs while moving away from energy intensive provision.

You will be working in collaboration with other researchers within the LiLi project within the School of Earth and Environment's Sustainability Research Institute ([SRI](#)) and will also be a member of a cross-faculty research group concerned with the political economy of technology and infrastructure, coordinated by Professor Andrew Brown of the Economics Division of Leeds University Business School. There will also be opportunities to contribute to wider research and teaching initiatives across the School of Earth and Environment, Faculty of Environment, and University.

The research consists in in depth analysis of the systems that provision electricity in at least 6 countries, highlighting performance in terms of access, affordability and equity, and effectiveness in terms of human need satisfaction. You should have (or be close to obtaining) a PhD in the field of economics, political economy or economic geography, the social science of energy systems, or a closely allied discipline and a strong background in a relevant field of economics, political economy, or economic geography. You will have excellent written and verbal communication skills and the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of stakeholders.





## What does the role entail?

As Research Fellow your main duties will include:

- Working with and in support of Dr Steinberger's project, to ensure it is successfully completed;
- Undertaking a broad international survey of systems of provision of electricity, reviewing existing studies and literature, resulting in selection criteria for in-depth case study countries;
- Designing a research approach applicable to electricity systems of provision, enabling international comparison, integrated within the broader scope of the LiLi project;
- Identifying relevant actors in the selected systems of electricity provision, conducting in depth case studies of provision of electricity in the countries selected and analysing the case study results;
- Publishing the outcomes in leading international journals and book chapters (one outcome of the LiLi will be a project legacy book) and synthesizing the knowledge gained so that it can be implemented in within a modelling framework;
- Communicating with research partners and industry stakeholders, including preparing materials for dissemination and presentation and collaborating with colleagues from the Economics Division of the Leeds University Business School in developing the systems of provision approach;
- Developing research objectives and proposals and contributing to setting the direction of the research project and team including, where appropriate 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;
- 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 research culture of the School and contributing to the training of both undergraduate and postgraduate students, where appropriate, 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.

## What will you bring to the role?

As Research Fellow you will have:

- A first degree and PhD (or be close to completion) in Economics, Political Economy, Economic Geography, Ecological Economics, the social science of energy systems, or a closely allied discipline;
- A strong background in a relevant field of economics, political economy, or economic geography or ecological economics;
- The ability to attain research objectives and conduct individual and collaborative research using new research techniques and methods;
- The ability to synthesize knowledge and identify essential behaviours and parameters when studying complex systems;
- The ability to work effectively both independently and collaboratively to generate high quality research outputs;
- Excellent time management and planning skills, with the ability to meet tight deadlines and work effectively under pressure;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills including presentation skills and the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of stakeholders;
- A track record of, or demonstrable potential for, publishing papers in leading academic journals;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development.

You may also have:

- Knowledge of the 'systems of provision' approach.

## 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 Julia Steinberger, Associate Professor in Ecological Economics and Industrial Ecology**

Tel: +44 (0) 785 607 9625

Email: [J.K.Steinberger@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:J.K.Steinberger@leeds.ac.uk)

## Additional information

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

Find out more about the [School of Earth and Environment](#)

### Working at Leeds

You can find out more about our generous benefits package and more about what it is like to work at the University and live 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](mailto:disclosure@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 in accordance with our Criminal Records policy. You can find out more about required checks and declarations in our [Criminal Records information](#).

