



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

## CANDIDATE BRIEF

### Research Fellow in Socio-ecological Resilience, Faculty of Environment



**Salary: Grade 7 (£32,004 – £38,183 p.a.)** Due to funding restrictions it is unlikely that we will appoint above spine point 33, (£34,956 p.a.)

**Reference: ENVEE1159**

**Closing date: 26 May 2017. Interviews are expected to be held on 13 June.**

**Fixed term for 36 months (external funding)**



## **Research Fellow in Socio-ecological Resilience**

### **School of Earth and Environment, Faculty of Environment**

**Are you an ambitious researcher looking for your next challenge? Do you have a background in environmental social sciences? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive Universities?**

This position is supported by the Research Councils UK (RCUK) Newton-SEA Research Partnerships project that will evaluate socio-ecological resilience in mangroves in Vietnam. The project will focus on the Red River Delta in Vietnam, one of the country's major agricultural regions and where a third of the population lives. The mangroves here provide a range of goods and services, from carbon storage and storm protection, to food and materials for local communities. However, increasing occurrences of typhoons, storm surges and sea level rise, along with the construction of sea dykes, deforestation and reforestation have all contributed to a changing biophysical and socio-economic environment. This research project will combine social research methods on livelihoods and scenario evaluation, with ecology, remote sensing and Geographical Information System approaches to evaluate socio-ecological resilience in Vietnamese mangroves and explore management options that maintain resilience and enhance the delivery of benefits and services across multiple scales.

Specifically this role will evaluate livelihood trajectories in local communities in mangrove socio-ecological systems and the role of ecosystem services, and contribute to analysis of socio-ecological resilience in mangrove systems and the outcomes for ecosystem services. You will have a first degree in an environmental/social sciences discipline and have a PhD (or be close to completion) in Environment and Development or a related discipline. You will also have skills in livelihood analysis and participatory field methods, including semi-structured interviewing and facilitating community focus groups, and familiarity with the use of Geographical Information Systems. This post is based in Leeds, with international travel.

### **What does the role entail?**

As Research Fellow, your main duties will include:



- Working with and in support of [Dr Claire Quinn's](#) research grant to ensure the project is successfully completed;
- Contributing to the project's design and methodological development in collaboration with the PI (Claire Quinn), Co-I ([Lindsay Stringer](#)) and project collaborators in Vietnam;
- Evaluating methods and techniques used and results obtained by other researchers and to relate such evaluations appropriately to your own work;
- Planning and managing your own research activity within the strategy identified for the project team as a whole, including undertaking fieldwork in Vietnam, particularly in relation to livelihood trajectories, participatory mapping and focus groups in the study communities;
- Working with project investigators to lead the analysis and interpretation of research data and draw conclusions on the outcomes;
- Contributing to and leading research papers for publication in leading international journals;
- Overseeing day to day data management within the project and preparing, with guidance, other project deliverables and presentations in a timely manner;
- Playing a key role in fostering the wider dissemination and impact of research findings, including actively engaging in knowledge exchange activities and assisting in the co-ordination and facilitation of dissemination workshops and meetings in Vietnam;
- Actively participating in the Environment and Development Research Group, and the Sustainability Research Institute (SRI);
- 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 in an environmental and/or development studies discipline and be close to completing or have successfully completed a PhD in Environment and Development, or allied discipline;



- Knowledge of the literature on livelihoods, ecosystem services and socio-ecological systems resilience, including familiarity with the use of Geographical Information Systems;
- Experience in using participatory approaches at a community level to assess livelihoods in relation to natural resources and in using field methods such as interviews, focus groups and scenarios, and in qualitative and quantitative methods for analysis;
- A developing track record of peer-reviewed publications in leading academic journals;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, including presentation skills, and the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of stakeholders;
- Demonstrated experience of conducting research and ability to lead and deliver on key research tasks;
- Ability to work flexibly, both as part of a team and independently, with proven ability to manage competing demands effectively, responsibly and without close support;
- Ability to meet tight deadlines, to work accurately and carefully within necessary budgets, maintaining a professional approach to all aspects of the role.

You may also have:

- A proven ability to be able to adapt research plans and timings in light of new information and/or wider project changes;
- Experience of working in south-east Asia, ideally in Vietnam;
- Experience in working with stakeholders beyond academia;
- Expertise and experience in working with interpreters.

## 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.

Your application should include:

- a supporting statement evidencing how you believe your existing knowledge and experience equips you to carry out the role;





- a copy of your curriculum vitae giving full details of qualifications and experience.

## Contact information

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

**Dr Claire Quinn**

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 8700

Email: [c.h.quinn@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:c.h.quinn@leeds.ac.uk)

## Additional information

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

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

Find out more about our [School](#).

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

### 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 be, in accordance with our Criminal Records policy. You can find out more about required checks and declarations in our [Criminal Records](#) information.

