UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in Sedimentary Geochemistry, Faculty of Environment

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

Due to funding restrictions it is unlikely that we will be able to offer above spine point 33 (£34,956)

Reference: ENVEE1162

Closing date: 30 June 2017

Fixed term for 2 years (external funding)

Research Fellow in Sedimentary Geochemistry
School of Earth and Environment, Faculty of Environment

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

You will join a large team of geochemists, palaeontologists and modellers at Leeds who have recently received NERC funding to investigate the origin of the terrestrial mass extinction at the end of the Permian. This project is a component of a larger NERC Biosphere Evolution, Transitions & Resilience programme, jointly funded with the National Science Foundation China.

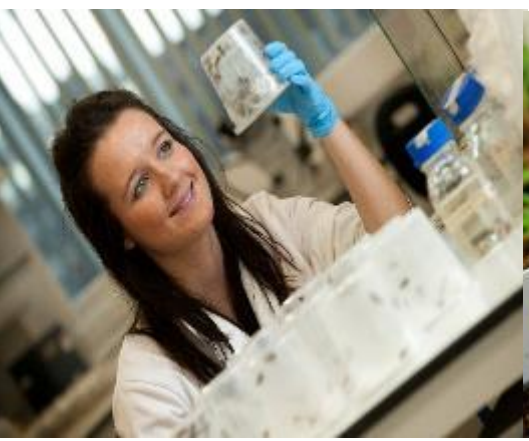
You will test the contribution of ozone depletion and enhanced UV-B damage to the terrestrial extinction by examining the terrestrial minor sulphur and sulphate-oxygen isotope record to look for evidence of mass-independent fractionation. The work will be led by Dr Rob Newton and take place both in the Cohen Geochemistry Laboratories at Leeds and in the laboratories of project partners. In addition to the laboratory analyses, you will also be expected to participate in sample collection in China.

You will have, or be close to obtaining, a PhD in the field of Earth, Environmental or Marine Sciences or a closely allied discipline and have extensive experience of working in a geochemistry laboratory. You will also have extensive knowledge of sedimentary geochemistry, and of applying sedimentary extraction techniques. Knowledge of the sulphur-iron-carbon systematics of sedimentary systems is desirable. You will show a strong commitment to publishing scientific results at an international level.

What does the role entail?

As Research Fellow, your main duties will include:

- Working with and in support of Prof Wignall's and Dr Newton's research grant to ensure the project is successfully completed;
- Generating and pursuing 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, where appropriate preparing proposals for funding in collaboration with colleagues;
- Taking part in fieldwork in China to collect samples for analysis;
- Performing extraction techniques to purify samples for isotopic analysis or to evaluate other aspects of sedimentary geochemistry;
- Performing isotopic analysis of samples at external laboratories in Scotland and the US for their sulphur and oxygen minor isotope composition;
- Evaluating methods and techniques used and results obtained by other researchers and to relate such evaluations appropriately to your own work;
- Communicating or presenting research results through publication or other recognised forms of output;
- Preparing papers for publication in leading international journals and independently writing reports;
- 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, where appropriate;
- 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 PhD (or close to completion) in Earth, Environmental or Marine Sciences, or a closely allied discipline;
- A strong background in low temperature sedimentary and stable isotope geochemistry;
- Extensive experience of working in a geochemistry laboratory;
- Demonstrated experience of investigating a palaeoenvironmental problem using sedimentary geochemistry and/or isotope techniques;



- Good 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 proven ability to work well both individually and in a team.

You may also have:

- A commitment to publishing original scientific results at an international level;
- Experience of biogeochemical, isotope or atmospheric chemistry modelling;
- Experience of applying sedimentary iron-sulphur-carbon systematics;
- Experience of sulphur-speciation/extraction techniques;
- Experience of field sampling for sedimentary geochemistry.

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:

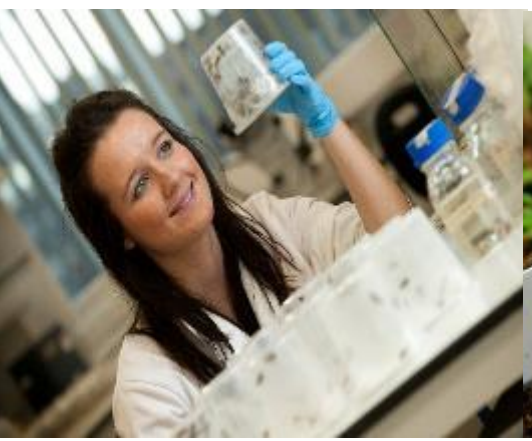
Dr Rob Newton, Associate Professor of Earth Surface Geochemistry
Tel: +44 (0)113 343 7981
Email: r.j.newton@leeds.ac.uk

Professor Paul Wignall, Professor of Palaeoenvironments
Tel: +44 (0)113 343 5247
Email: P.B.Wignall@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.

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.