



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

University Academic Fellow in Soil Science

School of Geography, Faculty of Environment



Salary: Grade 8 (£39,922 – £47,722 p.a.)

Reference: ENVGE1062

Closing date: 26 November 2017

University Academic Fellow in Soil Science School of Geography, Faculty of Environment

Are you an academic with proven abilities to carry out research and teaching in Soil Science and related topics? Do you have an excellent research record and proven success in obtaining funding? Are you passionate about delivering an exceptional student experience in a research-intensive international university? Do you aspire to become an academic leader in your field?

Soils are crucial components of the Earth's system and must be understood and managed effectively to deliver sustainable food production, clean water, store carbon and nutrients and mitigate flood risk. The University of Leeds is expanding associated research between its interdisciplinary centres, with international collaborators and at the University of Leeds Farm, developing the facility as an agriculture and Earth systems observatory.

You will contribute to this expansion in soils research that links soil processes and functions, vegetation dynamics, hydrology and water resources, through mechanistic process understanding of the soil-plant-water system from profile to catchment scale. This post builds on recent university investment to establish The Global Food and Environment Institute led by Professor Steve Banwart and establishes links between the [School of Geography River Basin Processes and Management research cluster](#) (where the fellow will be based), [water@leeds](#), one of the world's largest interdisciplinary water research centres, the university [food theme](#) (cross-campus interdisciplinary centre), the [Priestley International Centre for Climate](#), the [Cohen Geochemistry research group](#) in the School of Earth and Environment and the [White Rose Sustainable Agriculture Consortium](#).

With a vision and drive to develop a prestigious internationally competitive research portfolio as well as a passion for undertaking research-led teaching you will make a significant impact on the performance, stature and profile of research and student education at Leeds. You will embark on a structured five year development programme, successful completion of which will lead to your appointment as a Grade 9 Associate Professor.



With a PhD (or equivalent qualification) in a relevant field, for example soil science, agriculture, geomorphology, biogeochemistry, hydrology, reactive transport or terrestrial ecology, you will also have significant research expertise in soil science, particularly where connections can be made to agriculture as well as other systems. With a clear and compelling academic plan that will deliver academic and more general impact at an international level, you will have a clear strategy to connect with and across different research groups.

What does the role entail?

As a University Academic Fellow your main duties will include:

- Pursuing a programme of individual and collaborative research, resulting in high quality publications and a national and international profile and engaging with industry as appropriate to attract and co-ordinate major initiatives;
- Promoting the integration of your own research area with other research interests, in the School, Faculty and University;
- Attracting research funding individually and collaboratively to underpin high quality research activity and research programmes/projects;
- Developing a strategy to ensure that your research has the potential for impact beyond academia;
- Undertaking research-led teaching at different levels, with engagement in continual improvement in response to student and other feedback;
- Contributing to the design, development and planning of teaching modules and policy within the subject area as required;
- Working in partnership with students to provide outstanding education and an excellent student experience;
- Contributing to the management of the School or cross university interdisciplinary initiatives by taking on appropriate leadership, management and administrative responsibility;
- Leading academic initiatives and projects in research and student education which facilitate School, Faculty and/or University development;
- Participating in the recruitment, management and development of staff as well as acting as a mentor to less experienced colleagues;
- Contributing to the development of the discipline or research area, e.g. through organisation of conferences or membership of key bodies setting the strategic direction of the area;



- Contribute to the development and achievement of University, faculty and school strategy within the context of an international, research-led university;
- Becoming a specialist in the field, developing and maintaining an external profile as appropriate to the discipline;
- Maintaining own continuing professional development;
- Carrying out the duties of the post in accordance with University policies, procedures, values and standards, including the Leadership and Management Standard.

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 a University Academic Fellow you will have:

- A PhD (or equivalent qualification) in a relevant field, for example soil science, agriculture, geomorphology, biogeochemistry, hydrology, reactive transport or terrestrial ecology;
- Significant research expertise in soil science, particularly where connections can be made to agriculture as well as other systems;
- A clear and compelling academic plan that will deliver academic and more general impact at an international level;
- A clear strategy to connect across the different research groups within the University;
- Significant proven research experience within the academic discipline with a developing record of internationally excellent publications;
- Experience of presenting at national and international conferences and/or symposia;
- Evidence of building strong working relationships within and, as appropriate, beyond your own discipline and to contribute to successful projects and collaborations;
- The potential and commitment to undertake high quality and innovative teaching and gain a higher education teaching qualification or award;
- Experience of delivering and engaging with student education where opportunities have existed;



- A high level of interpersonal and communication skills, and a strong ability to communicate effectively in writing and verbally with students, academic and external audiences;
- The ability to lead projects and organise, balance and prioritise work commitments.

You may also have:

- Success in gaining significant independent research funding;
- Experience of leading on projects and initiatives, including managing resources and conflicting priorities within challenging circumstances;
- A growing track record of successful and innovative teaching at both undergraduate and/or postgraduate level;
- Experimental and/or modelling and simulation research experience with soil processes;
- Experience of involvement in postgraduate research supervision;
- Experience of working collaboratively with external partner organisations;
- Experience of mentoring less experienced colleagues.

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:

Professor Pippa Chapman, Professor in Biogeochemistry

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Professor Steven Banwart, Integrating Chair in Soil / Water/ Agriculture research

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Additional information

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

Find out more about Equality and Inclusion and Athena Swan in the [Faculty](#) and the [University](#).

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

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 page.

