



**UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS**

## **CANDIDATE BRIEF**

### **Postdoctoral Research Fellow on Adaptive Capacity and Resilience, Faculty of Environment**



**Salary: Grade 7 (32,548 – 38,833p.a.)**

**Reference: ENVEE1210**

**Closing date: 5 January 2018**

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

## Postdoctoral Research Fellow on Adaptive Capacity and Resilience, School of Earth and Environment, Faculty of Environment

Would you like to be part of an exciting new research project contributing to ensure greater resilience of the UK's food supply? Do you want to further your career in one of the UK's leading research intensive Universities?

You will join this interdisciplinary team to lead the collaborative assessment of stakeholder adaptive capacity within case study catchments and the co-design of key adaptive strategies to improve resilience to phosphorus scarcity and pollution. The project has been designed so that it has a strong practical component in interaction with stakeholders across the whole food supply chain, as well as cutting-edge theoretical aspirations for the advancement of resilience and sustainability science. While the project will take place in the UK, the project team is international and you will work closely with social sustainability researchers at our Australian partner institution, the [Institute for Sustainable Futures](#) (ISF) at the University of Technology Sydney (co-founders of the [Global Phosphorus Research Initiative](#)).

You will be based at the Sustainability Research Institute in the School of Earth and Environment and will be reporting to [Dr Julia Martin-Ortega](#), but will require interaction with the School of Civil Engineering as well as at partner institutions in the Bangor University (Wales), the Agri-Food and BioSciences Institute (Northern Ireland) and the Centre of Ecology and Hydrology (Wallingford). Interactions with ISF will be in person in the UK for some collaborative fieldwork tasks, or remotely via skype/email, with the potential for a visit to ISF in Sydney.

While it is not a requirement for this post, you will have the opportunity to engage with teaching activities at the School of Earth and the Environment and interact with the wide range of researchers at [water@leeds](#), one of the largest interdisciplinary centres for water research in any university in the world, encompassing expertise from across the physical, biological, chemical, social and economic sciences and engineering as well as the arts.

### What does the role entail?

As a Research Fellow your main duties will include:



- Lead the design and analysis of the assessment of farmers and other stakeholder's adaptive capacity and development of strategies for increasing resilience;
- The application of appropriate data collection techniques (e.g. qualitative semi-structured interviews, focus groups) and analytical techniques (e.g. thematic analysis);
- Contribute to the design and hosting of the national UK phosphorus vulnerability assessment, and the national stakeholder interviews, led by project partners at the Australian Institute for Sustainable Futures;
- Liaise with partners across the team to ensure the integration of the work with the biophysical components (e.g. catchment characterization) and the economic components (e.g. cost-effectiveness analysis) of the project;
- Develop novel theoretical approaches to the conceptualization and assessment of adaptive capacity and resilience; Lead and co-produce papers for publication in the peer-reviewed literature and present your findings at relevant national and international conferences; Engage with non-academic audiences and relevant stakeholders in collaboration with the coordinator of the project's MultiActor Platform, the N8 AgriFood Network and the UK Nutrient Platform.

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 Research Fellow you will have:

- A PhD (or close to obtaining) in Environmental Social Sciences or Sustainability Science;
- Experience on the application of social sciences research methods (e.g. semi-structured interviews, questionnaires, focus groups, thematic analysis and participatory techniques);
- Awareness of the adaptive capacity and resilience literature;
- A track record of publications and conference presentations;
- Ability to establish effective working relationships with a wide range of individuals, including those from outside academia;
- Excellent written and oral communication skills;
- Motivation and enthusiasm about the aims of the project;



- The ability to work independently to deadlines, and to take responsibility for research outcomes.

You may also have:

- General understanding of the UK food system (e.g. including agriculture, land management, the value chain);
- General understanding of the role of phosphorus in food security and environmental integrity;
- Experience of interdisciplinary research teams and approaches and stakeholder engagement;
- Experience in applying for funding to support research activities;
- Driving licence valid in the UK.

## 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 Julia Martin Ortega, Associate Professor of Ecological Economics  
Socio-economics Project Lead**

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 9752

Email: [J.MartinOrtega@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:J.MartinOrtega@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](#).

This project is part of the UK's Global Food Security programme, which is led by the BBSRC, ESRC, NERC and the Scottish government and which is funding £4.9 million of interdisciplinary research to increase resilience and sustainability of the UK food system.

This project is supported by the N8 AgriFood programme and the UK Nutrient Platform who are contributing Knowledge Exchange expertise, stakeholder engagement and capacity.

### 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.

