



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

## CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Fellow in Nature Based Solutions (NBS), Faculty of Environment



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

**Reference: ENVEE1211**

**Closing date: 11 December 2017**

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

## Research Fellow in Nature Based Solutions (NBS) School of Earth and Environment, Faculty of Environment

**Are you an ambitious researcher or industry practitioner with a background in understanding and developing the business case for nature-based solutions (NBS) to urban development such as - green infrastructure, sustainable water management and restoring degraded landscapes? Do you want to be a part of making a real difference to the uptake of NBS Europe-wide and globally?**

This 3-year full time post offers a talented individual an opportunity to work for a major European NBS project with global outreach, connected to a national UK project focussed on catchment solutions. The post-holder will draw together the technical and economic evidence and analysis for the business case to mainstream NBS in commercial and policy practice, analyse the market potential for NBS across Europe and globally, and identify barriers and enablers to delivering the business and financing case of NBS schemes.

NBS are inspired and supported by nature, cost-effective, simultaneously provide environmental, social and economic benefits and help build resilience. Such solutions bring more, and more diverse, nature and natural features and processes into cities, landscapes and seascapes, through locally adapted, resource-efficient and systemic interventions.

The time for NBS to be 'rolled out' globally has come, and the European Commission seeks for Europe to be at the forefront of benefitting from and exporting NBS services. An ambitious EU Research and Innovation policy agenda on NBS brings together and capitalizes on major strands of knowledge and results from existing demonstration projects around the world. These projects include those from Horizon 2020 (H2020) and past EU Framework Programmes on biodiversity and ecosystems, sustainable urban development, natural resources management, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and disaster risk reduction.

The University of Leeds has a leading role in the major EU funded project – ThinkNature ([www.think-nature.eu/](http://www.think-nature.eu/)) which is featured in a recent [Nature journal article](#). The project is a co-ordinating platform for all projects on NBS funded by the EU H2020 program including: Eklipse, Inspiration, NAIAD, Nature4Cities, Naturvation, Biodiversa, URBAN Green-UP, Unalab, GrowGreen and Connecting Nature.



At the same time the University of Leeds also hosts the £6M NERC-funded Yorkshire [Integrated Catchment Solutions Programme](#) (iCASP) which seeks to use environmental science to support the delivery of major economic and societal benefits. ThinkNature and iCASP offer mutual potential benefits and the postholder would be expected to work with ThinkNature partners, the H2020 NBS projects and the iCASP business network and stakeholders to:

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

As a Research Fellow, your main duties will include:

- Co-ordinating the timely delivery of University of Leeds activities under the H2020 funded project ThinkNature;
- Developing NBS economic and market appraisal approaches;
- Connecting ThinkNature and iCASP activities for mutual benefit and impact;
- Liaising with a wide range of national and international partners and stakeholders to facilitate the assessment and development of innovative NBS business cases;
- Evaluating technical methods and techniques used, and results obtained by other practitioners and researchers which have been or could be applied to NBS;
- Communicating or presenting research results, including 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, and knowledge-transfer professions and contributing to the research culture of the School;
- Maintaining your own continuing professional development and acting as a mentor to less experienced colleagues;
- Contributing to the training of both undergraduate and postgraduate students, 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 a Research Fellow you will have:

- You will have a Masters and preferably a PhD (or close to obtaining) (or equivalent industry experience) in environmental / ecological economics, business or engineering management (or related field);
- A publication track record;
- An ability to rapidly assimilate a broad range of technical, social and economic information for quantitative analysis to evaluate the potential and risks of NBS;
- Excellent organisational, planning and time management skills, with the ability to adapt priorities and meet tight/competing deadlines under pressure, delivering high-quality work;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, including presentation skills, with the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of stakeholders;
- Experience of engaging with businesses or public sector organisations, as well as researchers;
- The ability to work effectively both individually and in a team environment;
- A strong commitment to your own continuous professional development.

You may also have:

- A track record of Project Management of European research projects (or equivalent consulting projects);
- Experience in developing the business case for ecosystem services or NBS.

## 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 Steven Banwart, Integrating Chair in Soil / Water / Agriculture Research**

Tel: +44 (0)113 343 1413

Email: [S.A.Banwart@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:S.A.Banwart@leeds.ac.uk)



## Additional information

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

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

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 in our [Working at Leeds](#) information.

### Candidates with disabilities

Information for candidates with disabilities, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found in our [Accessibility](#) information 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 page.

