happy to
talk flexible
working

1   Advertisement

Post Title: Research Fellow in Earth Observation
School/department: School of Global Studies
Hours: Full-time or Part-time considered up to a maximum of 1 FTE / 37.5 hours
Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need).
Location: Brighton, United Kingdom
Contract: Fixed term for 39 months.
Reference: 21657
Salary: starting at £37,099 to £44,263 per annum, pro rata if part time
Placed on: 05 September 2023
Closing date: 26 September 2023. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.
Expected Interview date: Early October
Expected start date: Early November or soon thereafter

The *Climate Science and Society* group at the University of Sussex is seeking to appoint a highly talented and motivated researcher to join our project "strengthening Pastoral Livelihoods in the African Greater horn through Effective anticipatory action (PASSAGE)". Funded through the *Climate Adaptation and Resilience (CLARE)* programme, the project aims to enhance operational early warning and anticipatory action systems for drought risk in pastoralist livelihood systems across Greater Horn of Africa to enhance climate-resilient and sustainable livelihoods, especially for the most vulnerable.

In this exciting role you will be working with our academic, civil society, government, and business partners in the region and engage with a wide network of stakeholders. You will have the opportunity to apply your skills and develop novel approaches in analysing satellite-based earth observation data to monitor and forecast natural resources that are important to pastoralist communities in the region.

The outstanding impact of the research done At the Department of Geography has been recognized to world leading and internationally excellent. Your work within PASSAGE will also have high potential to lead toward substantial impact on the ground. Additionally, within the School of Global Studies you will be part of a diverse and vibrant community of academics and researchers who work passionately for a more sustainable, just, and inclusive world.

Please contact Dr Pedram Rowhani (p.rowhani@sussex.ac.uk) for informal enquiries.

The University is committed to equality and valuing diversity, and applications are particularly welcomed from women and black and minority ethnic candidates, who are under-represented in academic posts in Science, Technology, Engineering, Medicine and Mathematics (STEMM) at Sussex.

"*Please note that this position may be subject to ATAS clearance if you require visa sponsorship.*"

For full details and how to apply see our vacancies page

The University of Sussex values the diversity of its staff and students and we welcome applicants from all backgrounds.

Please note: The University requires that work undertaken for the University is performed from the UK.

2.   The School / Division

Please find further information regarding the school/division at
http://www.sussex.ac.uk/global/

3.   Job Description

Job Description for the post of: Research Fellow in Earth Observation

Department: Department of Geography

Section/Unit/School: School of Global Studies

Location: Chichester 1 Building, University of Sussex, Brighton, UK

Grade: Research Fellow I, Grade 7

Responsible to: Dr Pedram Rowhani (PI) and Professor Geert De Neve (Head of School)

Responsible for: N/A

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

1.   To engage in individual and/or collaborative research activity resulting in high-quality publications; and to develop research funding and knowledge exchange income individually or in collaboration with others, as appropriate, depending on the size and scope of the bid.

2.   To contribute to School teaching activities.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Research, Scholarship & Enterprise

1.1 Develop research objectives and proposals for own or joint research, at acceptable levels, with assistance if required.

1.2 Conduct research projects individually and in collaboration with others.

1.3 Analyse and interpret research findings and draw conclusions on the outcomes.

1.4 Produce high-quality research outputs for publication in monographs or recognised high-quality journals, or performance/exhibition, as appropriate, and contribute to the School's REF submission at acceptable levels of volume and academic excellence.

1.5 Contribute to the preparation of proposals and applications to external bodies, for example for funding purposes.

1.6 Individually or with colleagues, explore opportunities for enterprise activity, knowledge exchange income and/or consultancy, where permissible.

1.7 Build internal contacts and participate in internal networks and relevant external networks in order to form relationships and collaborations.

1.8 Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism, and engage in continuous professional development.

2. Teaching & Student Support

2.1 Undertake teaching duties, if required.

2.2 Assist in the assessment of student knowledge and supervision of student projects if required.

2.3 Assist in the development of student research skills, for example as part of a postgraduate supervision team.

3. Contribution to School & University

3.1 Attend and contribute to relevant School and project meetings.

3.2 Undertake additional duties, as required by the Principal Investigator and/or Head of School.

4. Role-specific duties

4.1 Develop and conduct research leading to papers in refereed journals exploiting opportunities available in accordance with the research outlined in our IDRC/FCDO

funded CLARE project, entitled "PASSAGE: strengthening PAStoral livelihoodS in the African Greater horn through Effective anticipatory action".

4.2   Develop and validate new tools to map ephemeral surface water bodies in dryland landscapes.

4.3   Develop novel approaches in classifying and mapping non-palatable invasive species in these drylands.

4.4   Promote results of research through participation in workshops and conferences.

4.5   Engage and collaborate with stakeholders and other researchers

4.6   Support PI in the management of the project.

This Job Description sets out current duties of the post that may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the post or level of responsibility entailed.

4.   Person Specification

INDICATIVE PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- A PhD or equivalent scholarly or relevant professional activity
- Pursuing a line of independent research within a research group.
- Publishing research (either from a recently completed PhD or new original research).
- Other forms of externally recognised professional practice of creative output of a standing equivalent to regular publication of original research.
- Initiating, developing or participating in links between the University and external bodies such as business and industry, the professions, community organisations and policy-makers.
- Evidence of successful engagement in teaching or supervision.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

1. Normally educated to doctoral level, or other equivalent qualification, or appropriate level of experience, as appropriate to the discipline (see role-specific criteria below).
2. Evidence of engagement in high-quality research activity.
3. Excellent presentation skills, with the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with students, colleagues and external audiences.
4. Ability to work individually on own initiative and without close supervision, and as part of a team.
5. Ability to exercise a degree of innovation and creative problem-solving.
6. Excellent organisational and administrative skills.
7. Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.
8. Excellent IT skills.

ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

1. Emerging track record of high-quality publications in reputable journals and other appropriate media of similar standing
2. Have expert knowledge on advanced statistical and earth observation data analysis, machine learning techniques.
3. Have good problem-solving skills
4. Experience in data analysis tasks similar to those described in work package task described in role-specific duties (above)
5. Demonstrable expertise in programming

6. Strong writing and communication skills
7. Experience managing projects

DESIRABLE CRITERIA

1. Excellent coding skills (e.g. python, R,…)
2. Excellent knowledge of dryland ecosystems
3. Good understanding of pastoralist livelihoods.
4. Good interpersonal and social skills to engage with a variety of stakeholders.
5. Experience in supervision of projects
6. Experience in developing training material and running training workshops