



Job Description

This form summarises the purpose of the job and lists its key tasks. It is not a definitive list of all the tasks to be undertaken as those can be varied from time to time at the discretion of the School, in consultation with the postholder.

Job title: Research Officer in Adaptation Finance

Department/Centre/Institute: Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment
Accountable to: Candice Howarth

Job Summary

The Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment (GRI) is at the forefront of research on climate change adaptation finance. The post-holder will work on a new, strategically important project for the Institute in this area: ATTENUATE (creATING The Enabling coNditions for UK climAte adapTation invEstment).

ATTENUATE is a new project launching in March 2025, that focuses on identifying and responding to the multiple economic, financial, structural and behavioural barriers to unlocking finance for adaptation and embedding the approaches within the activities of multi-level UK governments and agencies.

ATTENUATE will research opportunities for unlocking public and private sector funding in climate adaptation to identify the extent to which adaptation can be made an attractive investment. It builds the business, economic and financial case for public sector investment in enabling environments for unlocking public and private climate adaptation finance. Simultaneously, it focuses on identifying pathways to overcome structural and behavioural barriers to implementing these investments in multi-scale UK governance contexts. ATTENUATE is led by the Grantham Research Institute in partnership with Paul Watkiss Associates, University of Bath, the Environment Agency, the Green Finance Institute, and Love Design Studio.

Immediate team members will include [Dr Candice Howarth](#), [Dr Kate Gannon](#), [Dr Sara Mehryar](#), [Anna Beswick](#) and [Dr Denyse Dookie](#), with support from sustainable and climate finance experts from across the Grantham Research Institute.

The post-holder will work within an interdisciplinary project team, to deliver a range of key strategic outputs, that will be co-designed with key stakeholders including high-profile government agencies. They will also support delivery, coordination and impact of wider research and stakeholder engagement activities across the project.

The successful candidate will become a core member of this research programme. They will collaborate with project partners to diagnose and synthesise solutions to address barriers in UK adaptation finance at different governance levels. They will use these insights to support development and testing of an integrated multi-level Adaptation Investment Framework to address them through application within three case studies relating to heat and flood risk with partners from HM Treasury, the West Midlands Combined Authority, and London Borough of Hackney.

The candidate will initially conduct an evidence review to identify and synthesise academic, policy and grey literature on (i) existing approaches to adaptation investment planning methodologies and frameworks, and



(ii) enabling conditions and environments for adaptation investment, including those associated with innovative sources, instruments and best practices for financing adaptation. This will include evaluating the extent to which they have successfully addressed barriers and mobilised investment, why this is the case, and their relevance to the UK case study contexts. Work will comprise semi-structured interviews with UK and international experts, practitioners and policymakers working on adaptation finance (e.g. from IISD, UNFCCC, UNEP-FI, ADB, OECD) to fill evidence gaps and draw out additional knowledge. They will work closely with co-leads from Paul Watkiss Associates to ensure that the findings from the evidence review are used to inform the development of a UK Adaptation Investment Framework, and the development of options for adaptation and changes to enabling conditions within the three project case studies. They will also be expected to contribute to other project activities as required.

The position is based within the Grantham Research Institute, at the London School of Economics. The Grantham Research Institute's interdisciplinary research examines environment and climate change and informs policy and academic debate. LSE is a world-class centre of learning, recognised for its concentration of teaching and research across the full range of the social, political and economic sciences. From its foundation in 1895, LSE has been a place where ideas are developed, analysed, evaluated and disseminated around the globe. LSE is consistently ranked in the top five global institutions for the social sciences.

Duties and Responsibilities

Range of Research Activities and Responsibilities

- Deliver an evidence review, co-designed with ATTENUATE partners and supporting wider project activities and goals.
- Design and conduct fieldwork and interviews with monetary, government, financial market and other private sector and real economy actors.
- Develop an area of original research on adaptation finance.
- Analyse and research complex ideas, concepts or theories in the space of adaptation finance, applying appropriate methodologies.
- Contribute to creative solutions to research challenges.
- Publish academic papers of the highest quality in peer reviewed outlets.
- Initiate and sustain links with project partners and other external bodies to foster collaboration and influence decision-making.
- Present research and represent project at national conferences and events as well as develop wider activities to raise awareness of the project and disseminate results.
- Organise events, seminars and workshops.
- Develop creative approaches to research challenges.
- Act as a point of reference for others and contribute to the development of new knowledge and understanding within the field.
- Develop a national/international reputation for research in area of expertise.
- Contribute to developing the research culture and network within ATTENUATE.

Activities relating to administration and management and/or School service may include:

- Playing a constructive role in the life and culture of the Grantham Research Institute, the School, and the wider academic community
- Training and managing the work of research assistants.
- Supervising Masters students.
- Formulating peer reviewed research grant applications.
- Peer review of publications produced within the Grantham Research Institute.

**Note**

The LSE has a progressive pay structure that rewards you with annual pay increases up to a certain level as you develop in your role. We also provide for further reward past this point in the form of further pay increases based on exceptional performance.

Flexibility

To deliver services effectively, a degree of flexibility may be required in the duties performed in order to meet the exigencies of service. Job roles may also naturally develop over time and ongoing substantial changes to a role will be discussed between line managers and their staff, with job descriptions updated as and when appropriate.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

LSE is committed to building a diverse, equitable and truly inclusive university. All posts (and post holders) will seek to ensure diversity and inclusion, while opposing all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination on the grounds of age, disability, gender identity, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation, or social and economic background.

Ethics Code

Posts (and post holders) are assumed to have a responsibility to act in accordance with the School's Ethics Code and to promote the principles and values that the Code enshrines. The Ethics Code clearly states that the whole LSE community, including all staff, students, and governors of LSE, are expected to act in accordance with the principles which are set out in the Code. As such you are required to read and familiarise yourself with it. The School's Effective Behaviours Framework is designed to support this Code. It sets out examples for the six behaviours that all staff are expected to demonstrate, these can be found on the following link: [click here](#)

Environmental Sustainability

The post holder is required to minimise environmental impact in the performance of the role, and actively contribute to the delivery of the LSE Environmental Policy.