



UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY

LOCAL RECRUITMENT
Bonn, Germany

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ASSOCIATE ACADEMIC OFFICER

(Personnel Service Agreement)

Organizational Unit : United Nations University-Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS)

Reference Number: 2011/UNU/EHS/AAO/PSA/05

Applications to : *By Post:*
United Nations University Campus
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By Email: HRBonn@vie.unu.edu

Closing date : 10 April 2011

United Nations University Objectives:

The United Nations University (UNU) is an international community of scholars, engaged in research, postgraduate teaching and capacity development and dissemination of knowledge in furthering the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. The mission of UNU is to contribute, through research and capacity building, to efforts to resolve the pressing global problems that are the concern of the United Nations and its Member States. For more information please visit www.unu.edu.

UNU Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS):

The United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security has been conceived and created to assess the vulnerability and coping capacity of societies facing natural and human-induced hazards in a changing environment. Within the scope of this mandate, UNU-EHS is engaged in policy relevant research and capacity building. For more information about UNU-EHS, please visit www.ehs.unu.edu.

The Munich Re Foundation (MRF) Chair on Social Vulnerability:

The Munich Re Foundation (MRF) was established in 2005 on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of the Munich Re Corporation. Within its programme “From Knowledge to Action” MRF supports UNU by providing operational funding for seven years—from 2005 to 2012—for the Chair on Social Vulnerability. Each year, one internationally renowned professor assumes the chair and for the remaining years serves in a collaborative role with the chair network. In total, seven Chairs have been appointed. The first five MRF Chairs on Social Vulnerability have completed their tenure. Two Chairs will serve as academic leaders in 2011 and 2012. For this time period, an academic officer is being recruited to support the MRF Chair network.

The MRF Chair is established to enhance the involvement of leading scientists in the work of UNU in this area. Therefore chair-holders will be appointed for one year on a rotational basis. It is expected that they will collaborate with UNU-EHS both prior to and following their tenure.

Vulnerability as a social feature is influenced by cultural, institutional and governance settings along with technological competencies, knowledge and economic options available for affected communities. The Chair explores in particular the cultural and economic dimensions of vulnerability with special attention on indigenous perceptions, participatory approaches, and community-based coping practices to detect and reduce vulnerability.

The MRF Chair is supported by the Associate Academic Officer at UNU-EHS.

Responsibilities:

Under the authority of the Vice-Rector in Europe/Director of UNU-EHS, the 2011 MRF Chair-holder on Social Vulnerability and within the approved academic programme of UNU-EHS (Social Vulnerability and Environmental Migration), the successful candidate shall implement the following tasks:

- Support the Chair-holders in the design and implementation of their work plans.
 - Coordinate and where appropriate co-author publications with the Chair-holders.
 - Source project opportunities (including proposal writing) relevant to the activities of the MRF Chair-holders and complementary to the UNU-EHS goals.
 - Collaborate on social vulnerability, social resilience, and global environmental change issues.
- A. Coordinate a network of scholars and experts, to coordinate and organize the annual one week Summer Academy on Social Vulnerability, and the coordination of all related publications.
- (i) Participate in the regular academic duties of the Institute such as:
 - Conceive, organize and implement educational and training activities (courses, seminars, lectures);
 - Develop teaching and training materials in written and electronic form;
 - Advise and supervise students at post-graduate level and participants of continuing professional educational modules;
 - Implement educational tasks emanating from the cooperation agreements of UNU with other academic institutions (such as the University of Bonn);
 - Develop new links/courses with other academic institutions worldwide;
 - (ii) Produce literature reviews related to climate resilient pathways and social resilience, concepts, policy briefs, research papers, conference presentations and reports;
 - (iii) Edit respective research and educational awareness raising publications within the field of his/her academic competence based on own and/or contributed

- research results;
- (iv) Assist the Director in the strategic planning and the academic/development positioning of UNU-EHS in general and the MRF Chair on Social Vulnerability in particular, developing cooperative frameworks and networking;
 - (v) Assist the Director and the MRF Chair in reporting and presenting the Institute to different stakeholder communities (public, decision makers, UN System, scientists);
 - (vi) Participate as representative of UNU, or upon invitation, in working groups and initiatives of other UN agencies;
 - (vii) Work closely with the Director and the MRF Chair in research project proposals, managing donor relations including project reporting, presentations etc. with particular emphasis on climate change, and social vulnerability and resilience.
- B. Within the above described set of tasks, particular emphasis is given to:
- (i) Networking at the governmental, academic, institutional, municipal and individual levels relevant for the analysis and implementation of socio-economic research and policy advice;
 - (ii) Research at governmental, academic, institutional, municipal and individual levels, particularly in developing countries, in order to investigate their influences on the social vulnerability of those affected;
 - (iii) Assist the 2011 and 2012 Chair-holders in exploring their respective thematic areas related to social vulnerability and resilience;
 - (iv) Contribute to the organization of the 2011 and 2012 Summer Academies to be held jointly with experts and scientists worldwide to further investigate and analyze outcomes and work out concepts and recommendations for policy and decision makers;
 - (v) Networking and collaborative research including project acquisition.
- C. Serve as the focal point for the following topics:
- (i) Cultural and socio-economic dimensions of social vulnerability and resilience;
 - (ii) Comparative frameworks of social vulnerabilities and resilience;
 - (iii) Appropriate policy options and approaches to enhance social resilience, especially in developing countries.
- Perform any other tasks as assigned by the Vice-Rector/Director of UNU-EHS.

Required Qualifications and Competencies:

- A Ph.D. or equivalent doctoral degree and a strong background in a relevant scientific area (law, social, natural sciences, economics);
- Distinguished scientific/professional achievements (at least 5 years of work experience and a substantial publications list);
- Working experience in developing countries and preferably also in international organizations;
- Excellent command of oral and written English and German is essential, and additional UN official languages are desirable;
- Ability to effectively support academic leaders, organize cooperation and to communicate between different research partners, including the establishment of effective working relationships in a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic environment with sensitivity and respect for diversity;
- Working experience in networking and collaborative research including project acquisition.
- Good team player with strong interpersonal skills demonstrated by the ability to work in a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic environment with sensitivity and respect for diversity.

Remuneration:

We offer competitive remuneration commensurate with the applicant's relevant experience and seniority.

Duration of Contract:

This is a full time employment under the Personnel Service Agreement (PSA) for an initial period of twenty-four (24) months where the successful incumbent will be based at UNU-EHS in Bonn, Germany.

This is a locally recruited position; no relocation expenses or allowances apply. Applications from suitably qualified women candidates and those from developing countries are particularly encouraged.

Starting date: As soon as possible.

Application Procedure:

Interested applicants should submit their applications, preferably by email or mail before the application closing date and must include the following:

- a cover letter setting out how the qualifications and experience match the requirements of the position;
- a curriculum vitae with a completed and signed United Nations University Personal History form (P.11) downloadable from United Nations University website at www.unu.edu/employment. Please avoid using similar forms provided by other United Nations organizations;
- A list of publications and recent writing samples;
- full contact information of three referees;
- and the application must also indicate the reference number of the vacancy announcement.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Unsuccessful applications will neither be acknowledged nor returned. Please note that applications received after the closing date will not be considered.