

# Job Title: Head of the ESA Climate Office

Req ID 8611 - Posted 11/01/2019



## EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

Vacancy in the Directorate of Earth Observation Programmes.

ESA is an equal opportunity employer, committed to achieving diversity within the workforce and creating an inclusive working environment. Applications from women are encouraged.

### Post

Head of the ESA Climate Office

This post is classified A5 of the Coordinated Organisations' salary scale.

### Location

ECSAT, Harwell, United Kingdom

### Description

Head of the ESA Climate Office in the Science, Applications & Climate Department, Directorate of Earth Observation Programmes.

### Duties

Under the direct authority of the Head of the Earth Observation Science, Applications and Climate Department, the Head of the ESA Climate Office is responsible for running the ESA Climate Office, with the overall goal of expanding awareness, use and scientific impact of Earth Observation (EO) data records, principally from ESA missions. The postholder will support and advise on the detailed scientific goals of the various international scientific and operational user communities concerned with international climate research, modelling, adaptation and mitigation activities.

Duties :

- managing the Climate Office team (staff and contractors);
- developing a lasting and structured dialogue with climate research and modelling communities worldwide, analysing their needs for long-term satellite-based observations of the climate system, as expressed via the Climate Global Observing System (GCOS), and assessing their feedback on available EO data records;
- translating these needs into technical performance specifications for Fundamental Climate Data Records (FCDRs) and Essential Climate Variables (ECVs) based on the complete ESA EO mission archives, taking due account of the nature of different missions;
- initiating and managing a suite of scientific analyses, data exploitation and system development activities to enhance ESA's capability to generate FCDRs and ECVs that respond comprehensively to user needs for climate re-analysis, modelling, attribution, projection, prediction, trends assessment and data assimilation, validating these with the corresponding scientific users;
- ensuring that the FCDRs and ECVs resulting from the ESA Global Monitoring of Essential Climate Variables programme (GMECV) are complementary to, and consistent with, those of international partner organisations contributing to the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) response to the GCOS;
- maintaining the GMECV programme plan and quality management plan, preparing regular status reports and organising periodic programme-level reviews, workshops and briefings;
- ensuring that a long-term strategic view is taken for the ESA Climate Office including the GMECV Programme Evolution;
- fostering new initiatives to facilitate cooperation between the scientific research community associated with ESA EO missions data and the international climate modelling and research communities;
- liaising with international climate research communities and programmes (e.g. CEOS, CGMS, IPCC, GEO, COP) regarding their user needs and to coordinate with international initiatives on climate observation and climate

services;

- maintaining links and ensuring coherence with relevant climate activities of Member States and international partner organisations in particular regarding UNFCCC action;
- interacting with operational partners, internal and external to ESA, to transfer climate modelling and analysis capabilities developed under a research and demonstration context into an operational framework;
- communicating on ESA studies results and EO mission achievements for further outreach on EO science benefits to society;
- supporting the work of Young Graduate Trainees and Research Fellows in cooperation with appointed tutors as applicable.

### **Technical competencies**

Knowledge of scientific discipline, including strategic vision of the area of Earth Observation and climate change  
Knowledge and involvement in the international scientific community, including (CEOS, CGMS, IPCC, GEO, COP)  
Experience in the management and monitoring of research and development  
ESA Earth Observation policies and programmes

### **Leadership competencies**

Fostering cooperation & effective team-working  
Leading change  
Strategic vision & business context  
Developing & motivating people

### **Behavioural competencies**

Innovation & Creativity  
Ambassadorship  
Communication  
Relationship Management

### **Education**

Applicants should hold a PhD preferably in physics, engineering or a relevant Earth disciplines linked to climate science.

### **Additional requirements**

Experience and involvement in the international community (CEOS, CGMS, IPCC, GEO, COP) is an asset.

In addition, candidates should have:

- proven experience of leading, motivating and developing a team of experts in a project or R&D environment;
- the ability to provide strategic direction to the individuals and teams within the Division and relate team objectives to the overall and evolving organisational goals and context;
- the ability to drive performance and foster cooperation within and across teams throughout the organisation;
- demonstrated excellent leadership, relationship-management and communication skills, both oral and written;
- a proven track record of representing the Agency's interests to external interfaces;
- excellent cognitive, analytical, delegation, planning and organisational skills;
- the ability to anticipate problems, solve complex issues and relate situations to their context;
- the ability to reach solution-oriented, pragmatic and timely decisions of high standard and integrity as well as to support others (team members, upper management, other stakeholders) in this process.

Previous experience of managing managers and multiple teams is an asset.

### **Other Information**

For behavioural competencies expected from ESA staff in general, please refer to the ESA Competency Framework.

The working languages of the Agency are English and French. A good knowledge of one of these is required. Knowledge of another Member State language would be an asset.

The Agency may require applicants to undergo selection tests.

**The closing date for applications is 24 January 2019.**

If you require support with your application due to a disability, please email [contact.human.resources@esa.int](mailto:contact.human.resources@esa.int).

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Please note that applications are only considered from nationals of one of the following States: Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Canada and Slovenia.

According to the ESA Convention the recruitment of staff must take into account an adequate distribution of posts among nationals of the ESA Member States. **When short-listing for an interview**, priority will first be given to internal candidates and secondly to external candidates from under-represented Member States.

(<http://esamultimedia.esa.int/docs/careers/NationalityTargets.pdf>)

In accordance with the European Space Agency's security procedures and as part of the selection process, successful candidates will be required to undergo basic screening before appointment.