

Position description

The [McKinnon group](#) at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) is seeking to hire a postdoctoral scholar in climate science. The position will be funded by the Packard Foundation, and feature considerable flexibility in the research direction. The ideal candidate is self-driven and excited to actively contribute to our research group at the nexus of climate science and statistical methods.

We are particularly interested in candidates who would like to pursue research in the following directions:

- past and future climatic controls on wildfire
- dynamical responses to anthropogenic forcing, with a focus on causal factors for extreme events
- paleo perspectives on extreme events
- predictability in the climate system
- emulating and detecting changes in internal variability

The successful candidate will be advised and mentored by Professor McKinnon, and be part of an active, interdisciplinary research group that spans the Departments of Statistics and Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences and the Institute of the Environment and Sustainability. We prefer the position to be in-person, but are open to discussing remote or partially-remote work for domestic applicants. UCLA does not permit remote work from abroad. The position will include support for conference travel (approximately two meetings per year, adjusted as needed) and other professional development.

Responsibilities:

- Develop and advance novel research on one of the topics outlined above, or a related topic
- Publish results in high-quality, peer-reviewed journals, and publish associated open-source code
- Present results at conferences and seminars
- Mentor and advise more junior members of the group

Qualifications

Minimum qualifications:

- PhD in atmospheric sciences, climate sciences, or related field
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Proficiency in python (preferred), R, or other open-source data analysis software
- Ability and desire to pursue research both independently and as part of a team

Preferred qualifications:

- Fluency in python
- Substantial coursework and/or research experience with statistical modeling and/or machine learning

Salary, benefits, and appointment length

The starting salary is \$70,000, with a 2% increase each subsequent year. The position includes [full benefits](#), including medical, dental, and vision. UCLA postdocs are [unionized](#). The length of the appointment is expected to be three years; the appointment may be extended further if mutually desirable and conditional on funding availability. As per UCLA policy, the initial appointment will be for one year; reappointment for an additional two years is expected assuming satisfactory performance.

Application requirements

Applications will be assessed on a rolling basis. Please submit the following materials through UCLA Recruit (<https://recruit.apo.ucla.edu/JPF07948>):

- Research statement: A 1-2 page, single spaced, document stating your relevant background and proposed work in the McKinnon group
- CV
- Contact information for three references. Only references for shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Contact

Questions about the position may be directed to Karen McKinnon (kmckinnon@ucla.edu). Contact any [McKinnon group member](#) to learn more about being part of the group.

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