Bonn, Germany

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Associate Academic Officer
(Personnel Service Agreement - PSA)

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

Reference Number : 2017/UNU/EHS/PSA/AAO/55

Applications to : hrbonn@vie.unu.edu

Closing Date : 13 August 2017

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 http://unu.edu.

United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) established in December 2003, is part of the UNU system, a worldwide network of Research and Training Institutes. Its mission is to advance human security through knowledge-based approaches to reducing vulnerability and environmental risks. For more information, please visit www.ehs.unu.edu.

Context:

The Pan African University Institute of Water and Energy Sciences (including Climate Change) (PAUWES) is one of the five hubs of the Pan African University (PAU) hosted at the University of Tlemcen in Algeria. The Pan African University (PAU) was initiated by the African Union Commission (AUC) in 2008 with the objective to promote higher education, science and technology on the African continent at a high academic level. The focus is on the development of post-graduates, PhD-candidates and applied research in the frame of the projects “Water and Energy Security in Africa (WESA)” and “Risk Assessment and Reduction strategies for Sustainable Urban Resource Supply in Sub-Saharan Africa (RARSUS)”, EduSphere is supporting development of the Pan African University Institute for Water And Energy Sciences (incl. Climate Change) by enhancing its teaching and research activities in water and energy sciences.

The Environmental Vulnerability and Ecosystem Services (EVES) section at UNU-EHS is involved in research activities in the frame of the cooperation with the PAUWES together with other research institutions amongst other the Center for Development Research (ZEF) at the University of Bonn and the Institute for Technology and Resources Management in the Tropics and Subtropics (ITT) at the Cologne University of Applied Sciences in Germany.
EVES conducts original, policy relevant research addressing the vulnerability and resilience of social-ecological systems, where the concept of ecosystem services is of central importance. Specifically, EVES aims to understand how social-ecological systems are affected by diverse environmental hazards such as water and land degradation, floods, and droughts as well as how ecosystems can support disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Besides original research, the section advocates for ecosystem-based solutions.

Responsibilities:

Under the overall authority of the Director of UNU-EHS / Vice-Rector in Europe and the Head of the EVES section and in collaboration with the PAUWES project coordinator, the successful candidate will be entrusted with the following task:

- Support the EVES head of section in the supervision of PAUWES PhD students and further master / PhD students in the field of water and Climate Change (transboundary water and resources Management);
- Contribute to research activities in the field of water, food security and climate change nexus particularly in Africa;
- Contribute to applications for research grants particularly in the frame of PAUWES;
- Contribute to the acquisition of third party funding at UNU-EHS in general and particularly in the frame of PAUWES;
- Contribute to capacity building and outreach activities in the frame of PAUWES but also within the UNU-EHS/University of Bonn joint MSc programme;
- Take up other related duties as required.

Required Qualifications and Experience:

- PhD in environmental sciences, natural sciences, of geography.
- A minimum of two (2) years of working experience in a relevant field, preferably in an international and multi-cultural environment
- Advanced statistical skills and experience with statistical software packages essential;
- Advanced knowledge of ArcGIS (especially spatial analyst) would be an asset;
- Proven experience in the supervision of master and PhD students
- Excellent skills in writing applications for research grants;
- Experience in fund raising for research projects from German and international donors
- Ability to build good working relationships with individuals of different national and cultural backgrounds
- Excellent interpersonal skills and an ability to approach relevant stakeholders, team leaders and donors
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English and French. German would be an asset
- Working experience in Africa

Applications from suitably qualified women candidates are particularly encouraged.

Remuneration:

Remuneration will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.
**Duration of Contract:**

This is a full-time employment on a one (1) year Personnel Service Agreement (PSA) contract with the possibility of renewal subject to satisfactory work performance and availability of funds, with the combined duration of appointments not exceeding six (6) years.

This is a locally recruited post and no relocation allowances apply. The successful candidate will be employed under a local contract and will not hold international civil servant status nor is he/she a “staff member” as defined in the United Nations Staff Rules and Regulations.

**Starting Date:**

As soon as possible

**Application Procedure:**

Interested applicants should submit their applications by e-mail (to hrbonn@vie.unu.edu), and must include the following:

- a cover letter setting out how the qualifications and experience match the requirements of the position;
- a curriculum vitae and a completed and signed **UNU Personal History (P.11) form** downloadable from the [UNU website](http://www.unu.edu). Please avoid using similar forms provided by other United Nations organizations;
- an indication of the reference number of the vacancy announcement (2017/UNU/EHS/PSA/AAO/55).