LOCAL RECRUITMENT  
(Tokyo, Japan)

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Research Associate/Research Assistant  
Ecosystem Services Assessment  
(Personnel Service Agreement - PSA)

Organizational Unit : United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS)
Reference Number : 2018/UNU/IAS/PSA/RA/07
Applications to : ias ESA.recruitment@unu.edu
Closing Date : 15 February 2018

About UN University

For the past four decades, UNU has been a go-to think tank for impartial research on the pressing global problems of human survival, conflict prevention, development, and welfare. With more than 400 researchers in 13 countries, UNU’s work spans the full breadth of the 17 SDGs, generating policy-relevant knowledge to effect positive global change. UNU maintains more than 200 collaborations with UN agencies and leading universities and research institutions across the globe.

United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS):

UNU-IAS is a UNU institute based at UNU Headquarters in Tokyo. The mission of UNU-IAS is to serve the international community through policy relevant research and capacity development focused on sustainability, including its social, economic and environmental dimensions. UNU-IAS builds on a strong tradition of UNU research and capacity development in Japan, undertaken in collaboration with a global network of professionals and scholars, particularly in Africa and Asia. For more information please visit http://ias.unu.edu

Ecosystem Services Assessment (ESA):

Ecosystem Services Assessment (ESA) programme explores policy relevant knowledge generation through applied research on ecosystem assessments and governance of natural capital and biodiversity. One focus of the project is ecosystem assessments undertaken by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). This includes accounting systems of natural capital and ecosystem services, synergies and tradeoff analysis across ecosystem services and scales, future scenarios analysis and planning, and policy and institutions designed to promote sustainable ecosystem governance, including effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and green growth.
Responsibilities:

Under the overall guidance of the Director of UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) and under the direct guidance and supervision of the Academic Programme Officer, the Research Associate/Research Assistant will carry out the following tasks:

- support UNU-IAS research and other activities through collecting, inputting, and analyzing data of the following projects:
  1. Predicting and Assessing Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services through Integrated Social-Ecological Systems Approach (PANCES),
  2. Biodiversity and Ecosystem Scenarios Network (ScenNet), and
  3. IPBES assessments and capacity building
- conduct research and other activities on the topic of sustainability science
- support in organizing workshops, seminars, symposiums and other events related to the aforementioned projects
- assist the UNU-IAS Postgraduate Programme in preparing post-graduate educational modules, and engage in teaching and capacity development work
- Perform other duties as may be assigned

Required Qualifications and Experience:

- a Ph.D. degree or equivalent in the field of Landscape Ecology, Ecology, Environmental Science, Environmental Engineering, Rural and Agricultural Planning or a related field
- sound record of or potential for publication of the above-mentioned research areas with a focus on policy and practice
- demonstrated ability to coordinate and conduct policy-relevant research on ecosystem assessments and governance for sustainable development in an interdisciplinary approach
- skills to conduct field survey, including interviews with local people in Japan
- computer and web literacy required. Strong IT skills would be an asset
- experience in management of research programmes is an asset
- teaching experience is desirable
- excellent writing and communication skills in Japanese and English; knowledge of other United Nations official languages is an asset
- a good team player with strong interpersonal skills demonstrated by the ability to work in a multicultural, multi-ethnic environment with sensitivity and respect for diversity

Remuneration:

Remuneration will commensurate with qualification and experience. There are no other fringe benefits.

Duration of Contract:

This is a full-time employment on a Personnel Service Agreement (PSA) with UNU-IAS. Initial appointment will be for one (1) year, with the possibility of renewal subject to satisfactory work performance, with the combined duration of appointments not exceeding six (6) years.

This is a locally recruited post; no relocation expenses or allowances apply. The successful candidate will be employed under a local contract and will not hold international civil servant status nor be a “staff member” as defined in the United Nations Staff Rules and Regulations. UNU does not sponsor a working visa for this position.
**Starting Date:** 1 April 2018

**Application Procedure:**

Interested applicants should submit their applications by email (to ias_esa.recruitment@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)](mailto:ias_esa.recruitment@unu.edu)* form; please avoid using similar forms provided by other United Nations organizations
- an indication of the reference number of the vacancy announcement (2018/UNU/IAS/PSA/RA/07)
- a brief resume in Japanese

Please note that applications received after the closing date will not be considered.

The United Nations shall place no restrictions on the eligibility of men and women to participate in any capacity and under conditions of equality in its principal and subsidiary organs. (Charter of the United Nations - Chapter 3, article 8)