



RECRUITMENT NOTICE:

Position: Senior Research Scientist, Decision Support Systems and Knowledge Management;

Department: Mountain Societies Research Centre

Duty station: CAO, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic or UCA Office in Tajikistan

Deadline: December 31, 2012

The University of Central Asia was founded in 2000 by the governments of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan, and His Highness the Aga Khan, and is the world's first internationally chartered institution of higher education. UCA was created to offer an internationally recognized standard of higher education in Central Asia and create knowledgeable, skilled and creative graduates who will contribute leadership, ideas and innovations to the transitioning economies and communities of the region. The mission of UCA is to promote the socio-economic development of Central Asia's mountain societies, while at the same time helping the diverse peoples of the region to preserve and draw upon their rich cultural traditions and heritages as assets for the future. UCA operates within a framework of values that espouses academic excellence, individual rights and security, responsibility to community and public service, and is committed to ethical and transparent practices.

UCA recently established the Mountain Societies Research Centre (MSRC), a University-wide research institution that seeks to generate, disseminate and promote the application of knowledge for the development of mountainous regions and their societies. The Centre aims to fulfill five complementary objectives:

1. Generate and disseminate relevant knowledge through sound research
2. Build Central Asian capacity to conduct research relevant to mountain societies.
3. Inform policy and practice through evidence-based research.
4. Become a knowledge hub in Central Asia for scholars, development practitioners and policymakers.
5. Inform UCA's mountain societies-oriented programmes.

The Mountain Societies Research Centre, along with other thematic research centres currently being established, will be the academic core of UCA in the next five-year period during which UCA is developing its undergraduate and graduate-level academic programmes.

MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- In collaboration with key internal and external stakeholders, lead the process of formulating and developing a Spatial Information System (SIS) and related decision support tools for analysis and application of natural resource and socio-economic data.
- Define roles and responsibilities of and recruit research teams including post-doctoral research fellows, associate researchers from partner institutions, and implementation-oriented collaborators.
- Lead research teams in the development of background papers and application-focused research proposals.
- Work closely with UCA's departments to generate and manage external research grants.
- Develop the MSRC as a knowledge and resource hub for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers interested in mountain societies.
- Develop and implement monitoring systems and other internal quality assurance processes and structures



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- Provide strategic input to the organization of MSRC-hosted events such as conferences, roundtables, and policy and practice seminars.
 - Support strategic administrative duties for the Centre.
 - Ensure that relevant, UCA-hosted, international initiatives are contributing to the goal of the Centre.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- PhD in a relevant discipline or interdisciplinary area
- At least five years of relevant experience, preferably in the region
- Demonstrated independent research leadership and publications in refereed journals.
- Excellent conceptual skills in identifying information and knowledge gaps and research opportunities.
- Ability to work in developing/emerging countries and effectively communicate with partners and stakeholders from different backgrounds, including scientific, managerial and other non-scientific backgrounds.
- Experience with writing successful grant proposals and managing externally funded research.
- Highly motivated to develop research teams and mentor young researchers from the region, previous demonstrated leadership in collaborative research projects
- Flexibility and ability to work in a start-up environment of a new academic institution
- Fluency in English

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Knowledge of issues relevant to mountain societies
- Knowledge of the greater Central Asia region (including Afghanistan and Pakistan)
- Working knowledge of Russian and/or a Central Asian language

HOW TO APPLY:

Please send a cover letter, CV, and a list of three references (including their complete contact details) to hr.recruitment@ucentralasia.org by December 31, 2012.

As your application e-mail “subject”, please write: “SRS_GIS”

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Please check our website for more information about the UCA: www.ucentralasia.org