



TERMS OF REFERENCE

POSITION	Senior Research Scientist, Mountain Societies Research Institute
LOCATION	UCA Central Administration Office in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic
AGENCY	University of Central Asia
DEPARTMENT	Mountain Societies Research Institute
DURATION	Three years contingent on successful one year performance review

GENERAL INFORMATION

University of Central Asia (UCA) is a secular, private, autonomous, not for profit, and self-governing, internationally chartered educational institution established through an International Treaty signed and ratified by the governments of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan, and His Highness the Aga Khan and registered with the United Nations.

UCA's Mountain Societies Research Institute (MSRI) is 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 Institute 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 academic programmes.

MSRI's focus is on the social and natural science dimensions of **mountain economies** in the Central Asia region. This includes:

1. Environmental change and natural resource governance associated with land degradation, climate change, biodiversity loss and natural hazards.
2. On-farm livelihoods including agro-pastoralism and all aspects of food security.
3. Off-farm livelihoods including small and medium-sized enterprise development, mountain tourism and labour migration.
4. The economic, social and environmental impacts of large-scale mountain development relevant to mountain societies. This includes hydroelectric development, mineral extraction and landscape-scale conservation.

MSRI, along with other thematic research institutes currently being established, will be the academic core of UCA in the next three-year period during which UCA is developing its

undergraduate and graduate-level academic programmes and constructing the first phase of its first campus in Naryn, Kyrgyzstan.

MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Lead the design and implementation of interdisciplinary, applied research within the thematic areas outlined above. Specific responsibilities will include leading a project on ecosystem services monitoring and adaptive governance and a long-term socio-ecological systems research program.
- Define roles and responsibilities of, recruit, and lead research teams including Central Asian research fellows, associate researchers from partner institutions, and development implementation collaborators.
- Support Academic Affairs in the development of courses and curriculum, especially the Earth and Environmental Sciences undergraduate program and Mountain Economies graduate program.
- Work closely with UCA's Development and Donor Relations Department to develop research proposals and manage external research grants.
- Develop MSRI as a knowledge and resource hub for researchers, practitioners, and policy makers interested in mountain societies.
- Support the Director with strategic administrative duties for the Institute.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- PhD in a relevant discipline or interdisciplinary area.
- At least five years of relevant experience.
- Demonstrated independent research leadership and publications in refereed journals.
- Highly motivated to develop research teams and mentor researchers from the region.
- 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 writing successful grant proposals and managing externally funded research.
- Flexibility and ability to work in a start-up environment of a new academic institution
- Excellent English-language writing skills

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS

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

Please send a cover letter, CV, and contact information for three references to hr.recruitment@ucentralasia.org by Dec 13, 2013.