



Utrecht University


Three Assistant Professors in Earth Sciences (0.8 – 1.0 FTE)

Faculty of Geosciences
Department of Earth Sciences

December 2020

A white flag on a black pole, featuring the Utrecht University logo at the top and the text "Universiteit Utrecht" written vertically in black. The flag is set against a background of a blue sky with white clouds and a modern building with a grid of windows.

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About Utrecht University

Founded in 1636, Utrecht University is one of the oldest universities in the Netherlands and is amongst the largest in Europe.

Utrecht University is a widerange, international research university of high standing. We have a strong connection to the city of Utrecht and our roots lie deep in the past.

Our interdisciplinary research targets four themes: *Life Sciences, Pathways to Sustainability, Dynamics of Youth and Institutions for Open Societies*. We are a trailblazer in the field of modernising educational concepts. Our student pass rate is high.

Our teaching and research are strongly connected. We work together in tight communities. We believe diversity is important. All this provides us with a solid base from which to work with others around the globe on the societal issues of the future.



WHAT WE SEE HAPPENING IN THE WORLD

We live in a world that is rapidly changing. Global issues are complex: they are not limited to generations or continents and cannot be solved from one single perspective. Themes such as climate change, distribution of wealth and healthy living require an interdisciplinary approach. Scientific insights are needed to solve these issues.

WHAT WE WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE WORLD

We are working towards a better world. We do this by researching complex issues beyond the borders of disciplines. We put thinkers in contact with doers, so new insights can be applied. We give students the space to develop themselves. In so doing, we make substantial contributions to society, both now and in the future.

This ambition motivates our scientists in executing their leading research and inspiring teaching. At [Utrecht University](#), the various disciplines collaborate intensively towards major societal themes. More information can be found in Utrecht University's [Strategic Plan 2016–2020](#).

The University is located in the centre of The Netherlands in the attractive and culturally vibrant city of Utrecht. The Utrecht region is among the most economically competitive regions in Europe, and a hub for science, innovation and education.

Seeking three Assistant Professors in Earth Sciences (tenure track)



JOB DESCRIPTION

The Department of Earth Sciences at Utrecht University is seeking outstanding candidates (f/m) to fill three tenure-track positions in Earth Sciences at the Assistant Professor level. We may consider a higher-level appointment for one of the positions. The department's mission is to advance our understanding and prediction capability of processes that govern the evolution of System Earth from the molecular to the planetary and from the microsecond to the geological time scale. Our ambition is to be a world-leading centre of excellence in scientific research as well as research training and teaching, and to contribute in a meaningful way to the challenges of a modern, sustainable society by acquiring new and fundamental geo-scientific knowledge and by directly addressing societal challenges related to the field of earth sciences.

Within the context of this mission and ambition, we seek enthusiastic scientists and educators who are able to develop their own internationally recognised research line in any field within the Earth Sciences. We are especially interested in research complementary (in field and/or techniques) to that already conducted in our department with the exclusion of themes covered in our sister department of Physical Geography and the Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research Utrecht.

You will contribute to our (under-)graduate education programmes in Earth Sciences by taking full responsibility for some courses whilst working as part of a team on others. You will supervise Bachelor's and Master's degree thesis projects, as well as (your own) PhD students. On average, the department aims for similar contributions to educational activities and research for all its academic staff.

QUALIFICATIONS

You will strengthen education and research in the Department of Earth Sciences. For this, you are an inspiring teacher to BSc, MSc and PhD students and have, or are willing to obtain in the near future, a basic teaching qualification. You are a strong team player with good communication and networking skills, who is focused on achieving multidisciplinary research targets and participating in the acquisition of funding for research projects and advanced new equipment. A minimum experience of two to three years as a postdoctoral researcher is highly recommended. (International) experience outside Utrecht University is an asset.

You should

- have a PhD degree in the natural sciences;
- have a clear vision for education and a strong affinity with teaching;
- have an outstanding record of academic research, reflected in high-quality publications;
- have the ability to obtain research grants;
- have strong communication, networking and organisational skills;
- have an eye for public outreach and are willing to contribute to media appearances and popular scientific articles.

Publication track record, teaching record, acquired research funds and leadership experience will be weighed against the number of years of academic experience, also considering (parental) leave and part-time appointments.



You are expected to have a very good level of English, both spoken and written. We require a qualification English at C1 level (CEFR or comparable to level 3 of the Lecturer Assessment Grid) or to be prepared to obtain this level by training. For non-Dutch speaking candidates, Dutch language skills should be at the level of practical communication within several years of the appointment.

We welcome applications from across the breadth of the Earth Sciences and our guide will be the quality of the applicants, as well as the diversity of our staff population. Your vision on teaching, research vision and funding potential, as well as complementarity to existing activities in the department will specifically be considered by the evaluation committee. The profile of the department is rooted in the core disciplines of geochemistry, geology, geophysics, (marine) biogeosciences and hydrogeology. Within UU, we interact in research and teaching with physical geography, human geography, and environmental & sustainability sciences (sister departments in the Faculty of Geosciences), as well as with atmospheric & marine sciences, biology, mathematics, and chemistry/material sciences in the Faculty of Sciences.



OFFER

We offer a tenure track position (0.8 – 1.0 FTE) as Assistant Professor based on a 4-year qualification programme for permanent employment. This qualification programme has in principle an end-term evaluation around 3.5 years, but quicker is possible. We will agree upon a set of performance indicators to be met within that period. Subject to overall performance, we intend to convert your appointment into a permanent one from the moment you qualify.

In case the 3.5-year evaluation is not satisfactory, the contract will be terminated at the end of the fourth year. An extension to a maximum of six years is exclusively possible for the purpose of compensation of maternity or parental leave or other recognised delays. Further career development to Associate Professor is possible, depending on qualifications. The Faculty of Geosciences has an excellent merit-based career and promotion policy.

The gross salary – depending on qualifications and experience – ranges between €3,746 and €5,127 (scale 11 of the Collective Labour Agreement of Dutch Universities) per month for a full-time employment. Salaries are supplemented with a holiday bonus of 8% and an end-of-year bonus of 8,3% per year. In addition, you will have access to all equipment in our state-of-the-art laboratory infrastructure, coaching for teaching and supervision of researchers, and training and support regarding the acquisition of external funds.

Utrecht University offers excellent secondary conditions, including an attractive retirement scheme, (partly paid) parental leave and flexible employment conditions (multiple choice model). More information about working at Utrecht University can be found here. Facilities for childcare and sports are available on campus.

In case a more experienced candidate applies and is offered one of the positions, we will consider a higher salary scale.

ABOUT THE FACULTY

Utrecht University's Faculty of Geosciences studies the Earth: from the Earth's core to its surface, including man's spatial and material utilisation of the Earth – always with a focus on sustainability and innovation. With 3,400 students (BSc and MSc) and 720 staff, the Faculty is a strong and challenging organisation. The Faculty of Geosciences is organised in four Departments: Earth Sciences, Human Geography & Spatial Planning, Physical Geography, and Sustainable Development.

The Department of Earth Sciences is the largest academic Earth Sciences institute in The Netherlands. The department conducts teaching and research across a large range of the solid Earth and environmental Earth sciences, with activities in almost all areas of geology, geochemistry, geophysics, biogeosciences and hydrogeology.

The department hosts an international tenured staff of over 45 scientists and more than 110 PhD students and postdoctoral researchers. Our research programme spans four intertwined themes: Climate & Life, Earth interior, Earth materials, and Environmental Earth Sciences. The educational programmes in Earth Sciences are offered in a joint effort with our sister department of Physical Geography.

Utrecht's *Geolab* houses a wide variety of analytical and experimental facilities, including well-equipped stable isotope and organic geochemical laboratories and the porous media lab. The micro-analytical facilities include, among others, a nano-SIMS, a laser-ablation ICP-MS system, electron microprobe, micro-XRF, AFM, Raman and IR spectroscopy instruments. The adjacent new *Earth Simulation Lab* houses our High Pressure & Temperature and Tectonics laboratories, as well as several microscope facilities. Moreover, the department also has a world-class Paleomagnetic laboratory, several flume facilities, as well as excellent High-Performance Computing facilities.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information about this position, please contact Prof Jack Middelburg, head of department, via j.b.m.middelburg@uu.nl. You may also wish to visit our research pages at www.uu.nl/geo/aw.

The application deadline is March 15, 2021.



APPLY

Everyone deserves to feel at home at our university. We welcome employees with a wide variety of backgrounds and perspectives.

To apply, please go to our website www.geo.uu.nl/vacancies.

Include in your application:

- a brief vision on/plans regarding your own research and teaching for the next 5 years (max. 3 A4);
- your teaching experience and a list of publications;
- (e-mail) addresses of two referees.

In the second stage of the selection procedure, the short-listed candidates will be asked to defend their research plans and teaching vision in an oral presentation and discussion with the committee. Presenting a short (online) lecture to students and staff may also be included in the procedures. We intend to have these selection procedures take place in April or early May.

We aim to fill the positions by September 2021 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Please note: Due to the current situation regarding the Corona virus (COVID-19) the process of selection and interviews may be subject to change.

Living and Working in Utrecht

THE NETHERLANDS

The Kingdom of the Netherlands consists of twelve provinces in Western Europe (commonly known as the Netherlands) and three islands in the Caribbean. The Netherlands, (also known informally as Holland), with a population of over 16 million, is a constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary system. It is a geographically low-lying country, with about 20% of its area and 21% of its population located below sea level, and 50% of its land lying less than one metre above sea level. This small nation boasts a wealth of cultural heritage and is famous for its painters, windmills, tulips, clogs and notoriously flat lands. Today, international trade is still the main driver of economic growth. Holland is the sixteenth largest economy in the world and one of the ten leading exporting nations. As a modern European country, it preserves its highly international character and is known for its liberal mentality. As a founding member of the EU and NATO, and host to the International Court of Justice in The Hague, the Netherlands is at the heart of international cooperation. Its small size, welcoming attitude to travellers and many sights make it a unique and fairly easy to discover destination.

ABOUT UTRECHT

Utrecht is located in the eastern corner of the Randstad conurbation, and is the fourth largest city in the Netherlands with a population of over 330,000. Utrecht's ancient city centre features many buildings and structures several dating as far back as the Early Middle Ages. Utrecht boasts beautiful canals with extraordinary wharf cellars housing cafés and terraces by the water. As well as the famous Dom tower, the city has hundreds of other monuments that each contribute to the special atmosphere in this centuries-old university town. There are also a broad variety of shops and boutiques which line the canals and streets in the inner city.

PRACTICAL

Utrecht Central Station forms the hub of the Dutch rail network, and is easily accessible directly, or with one change of train, from almost every station in the Netherlands. There are direct connections



from Amsterdam and Schiphol Airport (even at night), both taking 30 minutes. The high-speed train ICE to Cologne, Frankfurt and Basel stops in Utrecht and there are also daily night train (Euronight/CityNightline) connections to Berlin, Copenhagen, Prague, Warsaw, Zurich, Munich and Innsbruck (seasonal).

Utrecht has its own International school – the International School Utrecht (ISU). ISU provides a high quality and accessible international learning environment for children from diverse backgrounds.

For more information please visit:

www.uu.nl/en/organisation/working-at-utrecht-university.

Certain categories of international staff (e.g. Researchers) can receive tax exemption on approximately thirty per cent of their gross salary. This is to compensate for the extra costs they incur in living abroad, such as having to rent temporary accommodation, etc. In principle, the 30% rule applies to staff who have been expressly recruited from another country and who have a formal contract of employment in the Netherlands.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information on terms of employment at Utrecht University please see: www.uu.nl/en/organisation/working-at-utrecht-university/terms-of-employment.

