Job Posting: Hydroclimate Variability Scientist

PCIC is seeking to hire a Hydroclimate Variability Scientist.

Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium (PCIC)

The Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium (PCIC) was created to assess climate impacts in the Pacific and Yukon Region of Canada. The goals of the Consortium are to foster collaborative research, to strengthen the capacity to address regional climate change and variability, and to provide the scientific basis for policy development. PCIC is a regional climate service centre at the University of Victoria that provides practical information on the physical impacts of climate variability and change. Through collaboration with climate researchers and regional stakeholders, PCIC produces knowledge and tools in support of long-term planning. [http://www.PacificClimate.org](http://www.PacificClimate.org)

Challenge

The Hydroclimate Variability Scientist works as part of a multi-disciplinary team to study the low frequency variability of the climate and its impacts on the Pacific and Yukon Region.

Nature of Work

The Hydroclimate Variability Scientist undertakes basic and applied research to quantify the impact of low frequency climate variability on the hydro-climatology of the Region. He/she works under the supervision of the Director of PCIC and the Lead for PCIC’s Hydrologic Impacts theme, collaborates with members of the Hydrologic Impacts theme, and participates in the externally funded CanSISE Research Network. PCIC offers a positive, supportive and collegial work environment that promotes collaboration and excellence. As a user and stakeholder driven organization, PCIC requires that candidates be able to flexibly adapt their research objectives to changing organizational and stakeholder priorities and needs.

Objectives

The objectives of the position are to conduct research that seeks to:

- Quantify observed low-frequency climatic and hydro-climatic variability in the region and evaluate the extent to which it is influenced by phenomena external to the region, including anthropogenic and natural external forcing of the climate system and large scale teleconnections associated with natural modes of variability such as the El-Nino/Southern Oscillation and the Pacific Decadal Oscillation.
- Evaluate the ability of climate models to simulate low frequency climate variability in the region, diagnose the mechanisms in climate models that are responsible, assess whether the evidence indicates that similar mechanisms operate in observations.
- Evaluate downsampling techniques from the perspective of their ability to propagate the influences of large-scale low-frequency variability to high spatial resolution.
- Evaluate the hydroclimatic implications of low-frequency variability, both for the current climate and projected future climates.
Knowledge, Skills & Abilities

Knowledge and Experience
- PhD in the physical sciences, preferably in the Atmospheric, Climate or Hydrologic sciences
- Experience studying climate variability and change, and its hydroclimatic implications
- Experience in the development and application of statistical downscaling methods
- Experience in the development and application of hydrologic models such as VIC (the Variable Infiltration Capacity model)
- Experience working on interdisciplinary projects and with interdisciplinary teams
- A high level of productivity for peer-reviewed publications is expected.

Skill
- Excellent programming skills in several languages
- Excellent data analysis, visualization skills
- Excellent statistical analysis skills
- Excellent communications skills
- The applicant must have excellent multi-tasking skills

Ability
- Work in a self-directed manner and within a team environment
- Re-evaluate and adjust priorities and objectives in light of research findings and evolving requirements
- Ability to acquire, manipulate and analyze large spatiotemporal data sets.
- Ability to find creative solutions to complex, open-ended problems.
- Operate with a professional demeanor while representing PCIC outside the organization.

Employment period
2 year term commitment, with potential for renewal.

Weekly working hours Pay rate
Full time (37.5 hours per week) Commensurate with education and experience.

Additional information: Address enquiries to Francis Zwiers @ climate@uvic.ca.

Application: Please send your application including a cover letter, CV, and three professional references to Dr. Francis Zwiers, climate@uvic.ca, with “ATTN: Hydroclimatic Variability Scientist” in the subject line. Please indicate whether you are legally able to work in Canada.

Review of applicants will start March 26th, 2015 and continue until suitable candidates are found.