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Research Associate Position

PCIC is seeking to hire a research associate.

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>

Challenge

The Research Associate works as part of a multi-disciplinary team that has the task of updating observationally based estimates of engineering design values, such as those that are frequently found in building codes and similar documents. Examples of design values of interest include extreme snow loads, extreme rainfall amounts for rainfalls of different durations and indicators of extreme thermal loads. The research associate will also undertake basic and applied research to improve our ability to apply and interpret extreme value analysis methods at local and regional scales.

Key Requirements

Knowledge and Experience

- MSc or PhD, ideally in the atmospheric or hydrometeorological sciences, or a related area
- An understanding of and formal training in statistics, ideally including extreme value theory
- Experience in the manipulation, improvement and analysis of hydrometeorological station data
- Experience in the statistical analysis of large datasets
- Experience working on interdisciplinary projects and with interdisciplinary teams

Skills

- Excellent data analysis and data visualization skills, ideally in a geospatial context
- Excellent programming skills in several languages (R and Python being particularly useful)
- Familiarity and the ability to interface with relational databases using SQL
- Effective written and oral communication skills

Abilities

- Ability to work in a self-directed manner and within a team environment
- Ability to re-evaluate and adjust priorities and objectives in light of research findings and evolving requirements
- Ability to find creative solutions to complex, open-ended problems.
- Operate with a professional demeanor while representing PCIC at professional meetings and other venues.

Employment period

2-year term commitment.

Weekly working hours

Full time (37.5 hours per week)

Pay rate

Commensurate with education and experience.

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

Application: Please send your application including a cover letter, CV, code sample and three professional references to Francis Zwiers, climate@uvic.ca, with “**ATTN: Engineering Design Value Research Associate**” in the subject line. Please indicate whether you are legally able to work in Canada.

Review of applicants will start **immediately** and continue until a suitable candidate is found.