

## About King's

Please see the link below for supporting information for prospective applicants. This also includes some background information about the university including rankings, research outputs, King's Health Partner Trusts and our current fundraising initiative. [www.kcl.ac.uk/aboutkings](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/aboutkings)

## Job description

Post title	Research Associate
Department/Division	Geography
Faculty	Social Science and Public Policy
Grade/salary	Minimum Grade 6.31, £32,958 per annum plus £2,623 London Weighting Allowance per annum
Hours of work	Full time (35 hours per week)
Period of appointment	Fixed-Term Contract for 31 months
Responsible to	Professor Bruce Malamud
Responsible for	N/A
Campus	Strand Campus, London

### Role purpose

Based at the Strand Campus with its vibrant mix of academic disciplines, this appointment is a full-time 31-month post working on the LANDSLIP (LANDSLide multi-hazard assessment, Preparedness and early warning in South Asia) project ([www.landslip.org/](http://www.landslip.org/)). This project is funded by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and Department for International Development (DFiD) in the UK, part of the Science for Humanitarian Emergencies and Resilience (SHEAR) programme ([www.nerc.ac.uk/research/funded/programmes/shear/](http://www.nerc.ac.uk/research/funded/programmes/shear/)). The post holder will work with social and physical scientists and will be supervised by Dr George Adamson, Dr Amy Donovan and Professor Bruce D Malamud. Their profiles can be found at [www.kcl.ac.uk/geography/people/academic](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/geography/people/academic).

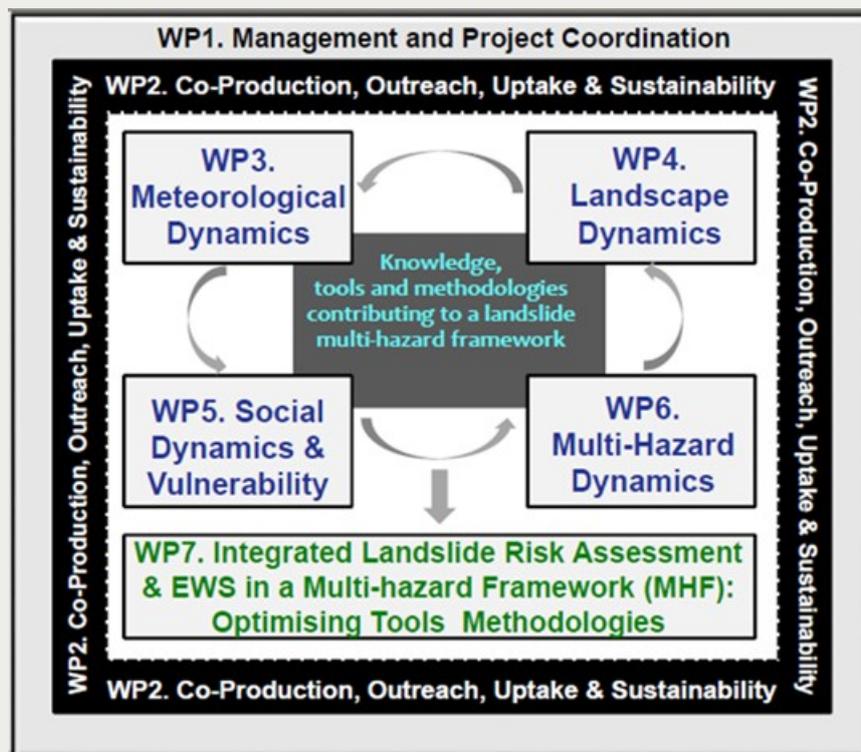
LANDSLIP is a £2M research project focussing on early warning of landslides in India (with outreach to Afghanistan), with partners from India (Geological Survey of India, Amrita University, Practical Action India), UK (King's College London, British Geological Survey, Practical Action UK, Newcastle University, Met Office), and Italy (CNR Istituto di Ricerca per la Protezione). The project is led by KCL and BGS, and aims to produce an early warning system for landslides at medium spatial and temporal scales in two

regions of India: (i) Darjeeling/East Sikkim and (ii) the Nilgiris. These areas have diverse human and physical geographies, presenting a range of challenges and opportunities.

The overall research objectives of the LANDSLIP project are:

- To enhance monitoring and risk assessment of hydrologically controlled landslide-related multi-hazards in India
- To contribute to the reduction of the impact of landslides (e.g., lives lost, economic, environmental) and, through preparedness via risk assessment and early warning systems (EWS), and build resilience to landslides in vulnerable (often remote) and hazard-prone areas of India
- To get desired & useful tailored information to appropriate stakeholders in ways they can access, by doing research to enhance uptake & use of risk information in practice
- To disseminate LANDSLIP project knowledge to the broader South Asia region (particularly India & Afghanistan), along with capacity building to ensure LANDSLIP's lasting legacy.

The structure of the LANDSLIP project is divided into seven work packages (WP) as given below.



The applicant will work on WP5 and WP6, which are the social science elements of the project. The applicant will also be expected to contribute to WP7, which brings together the other work packages to design a landslide early warning system.

The specific tasks within WP5, WP6 and WP7 that the applicant will be expected to contribute to include:

- Mapping the institutional landscape for landslide risk responsibility in the three study areas. This includes documentary analysis and interviews with community and stakeholders from local to national level.
- Compiling & constructing case histories of how stakeholders (scientists, hazard managers, public, decision makers) magnify/reduce impact through human-built systems or policy.
- Collating case histories of landslide multi-hazard cascades & coincidences through (i) archival research of hazard interactions over the last 10-20 years, (ii) selected case studies using peer-review/grey literature, instrumental records, archives (e.g., govt. records), expert interviews & social analytics.

- Mapping potential landslide multi-hazard scenarios based on (i) physical factors in those areas, (ii) expertise of partners, (iii) expert interviews.
- Sourcing and preparing data on landslide vulnerability and impact, including: (i) infrastructure and vulnerability exposure data (e.g., population, infrastructure, demographics) and (recent) past landslide-related events; (ii) socio-economic impact on physical & social systems.
- Compiling Participatory Vulnerability Capacity Assessments (PVCA) at local & district levels, and assess gaps with our own work. This will be achieved through (as needed) surveys, community participatory workshops and stakeholder spatial vulnerability mapping.'
- Identifying warning message requirements and dissemination for an early warning system.

Part of the work above will involve in-depth interviews with Indian stakeholders to identify and evaluate the institutional dynamics in each of the study regions and to construct past histories of landslide events and how they were managed and mitigated. Researching literature on vulnerability, science and technology studies and risk communication will be important in designing and carrying out these tasks. There will also be opportunities to extend the work into risk perception and science communication, including citizen science.

Tasks will be carried out in close collaboration with other project partners, particularly Practical Action in the UK and India, and Amrita University.

The applicant will also be asked to take on some limited project administration to support the principal investigator Professor Malamud, through WP2. This will include:

- Identifying/organising progress meetings, project workshops and seminars.
- Drafting progress reports, press releases and internal communications.
- Liaising with other projects funded under the SHEAR scheme.

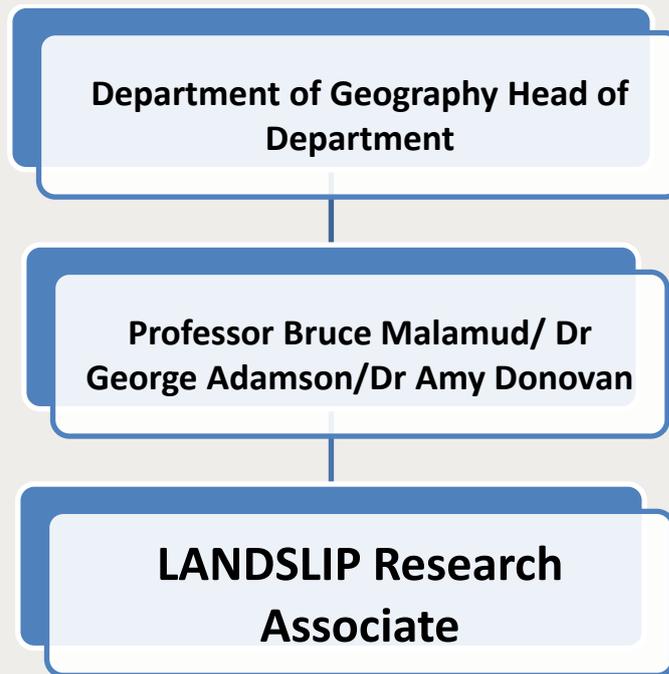
For further details on the work packages that the applicant will contribute to please contact the principal investigator Professor Bruce Malamud at [bruce.malamud@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:bruce.malamud@kcl.ac.uk).

Work will take place in both the UK and India, but the applicant will be expected to be based in the UK.

## Role profile

### **The successful candidate will undertake the following tasks as may be required:**

- Take responsibility for the day-to-day liaison with other project partners in the UK and internationally.
- Undertake extensive field research in India, over several months, including interview and survey work, as well as desk-based documentary analysis.
- Liaise with project partners, particularly Practical Action UK, Practical Action India, and Amrita University, as needed.
- To agree research topics with the King's College London investigators, and to work on these topics in a timely and detailed manner, delivering the required outputs.
- To deliver findings on time and to agreed specifications, relevant to the overarching project(s) within which the work is based.
- To prepare work for publication in project documents and, where relevant, peer reviewed journals.
- To contribute to King's College London Research Group discussions and potentially to the development of new research areas within the Research Group.
- To support field campaigns where appropriate.
- To liaise with all other LANDSLIP project partners to ensure project development and implementation for meeting research goals.
- To maintain a consistently high output of international quality publications, and stakeholder/research briefs.
- To present research findings and papers at national and international academic seminars and conferences and to contribute to the internal and external visibility of King's.
- To draft (parts of) project documents and peer reviewed papers.



### **About the Faculty**

The Department of Geography is a component part of the faculty of Social Science and Public Policy. More information about the Faculty can be found at

<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/sspp/about/index.aspx>

### **About the Department of Geography**

Information about the Department and its wide-ranging activities can be found at

<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/sspp/departments/geography/index.aspx>

# Person specification

## Eligibility to work in the United Kingdom

Applications are welcomed from international candidates. The recruitment of this post meets Home Office advertising requirements that qualify the role for sponsorship under Tier 2. Consequently, if required, the university could potentially sponsor the successful candidate in applying for a visa under Tier 2 of the points based immigration system, providing all other requirements are met.

Information on Tier 2 sponsorship can be found on the UK Visas and Immigration website:

[www.gov.uk/tier-2-general/overview](http://www.gov.uk/tier-2-general/overview)

Criteria	Essential	Desirable	How identified and assessed*
*For 'How identified and assessed' use: <b>AP</b> - application, <b>AS</b> - assessment, <b>I</b> - interview, <b>P</b> - presentation, <b>R</b> - references			
Education / qualification and training			
PhD awarded in Geography, or Social/Environmental related discipline or PhD in Geography, or Social/Environmental related discipline near completion.  Please note that this is a PhD level role but candidates who have submitted their thesis and are awaiting award of their PhDs will be considered. Should the successful candidate be awaiting the award of their PhD, the appointment will be made at Grade 5, spinal point 30 with the title of Research Assistant until confirmation of the award of the PhD has been received. Upon confirmation of the award of the PhD, the job title will become Research Associate and the salary will increase to Grade 6, spine point 31.	<b>X</b>		AP
Knowledge / skills			
Substantial knowledge of qualitative and semi-quantitative methodologies (e.g., interviews, surveys, critical literature reviews using multiple types of evidence).	<b>X</b>		AP, I
Competency in at least one Indian language specific to the Darjeeling, East Sikkim, or Nilgiris region.		<b>X</b>	AP, I
Fluency in use of MS Word, Excel, and PowerPoint or equivalents.	<b>X</b>		AP, I
Knowledge of current literature on social vulnerability, resilience and adaptation to natural and environmental hazards	<b>X</b>		
Knowledge of risk communications		<b>X</b>	
Knowledge of natural hazard risk assessment		<b>X</b>	AP, I
Use of NVIVO or similar software for qualitative analysis.		<b>X</b>	AP, I
Experience			
Past experience working on interdisciplinary research projects		<b>X</b>	AP, I
Experience working in South Asia		<b>X</b>	AP, I

Criteria	Essential	Desirable	How identified and assessed*
*For 'How identified and assessed' use: <b>AP</b> - application, <b>AS</b> - assessment, <b>I</b> - interview, <b>P</b> - presentation, <b>R</b> - references			
Writing of international journal publications	<b>X</b>		AP
Personal characteristics/other requirements			
Ability to work in a team and to collaborate	<b>X</b>		I, R
Ability to write clearly and succinctly in English	<b>X</b>		AP, R
Ability to communicate orally in English	<b>X</b>		I, R
Ability to work on agreed tasks, prioritize work, and work to agreed deadlines	<b>X</b>		AP, I, R
Enthusiasm for research and willingness to contribute to group discussions	<b>X</b>		AP, I, R
Ability to work independently	<b>X</b>		AP, I, R

### Occupational Health Clearance

As part of our pre-employment checks the successful applicant will be sent a 'Health and Capability Declaration Form' and if they declare that they do have a health condition or disability that may require accommodation measures so that they are able to carry out their work comfortably and efficiently, they will be sent an Occupational Health Questionnaire to determine whether any reasonable accommodation measures are required for the candidate to take up the post.

# Summary of Terms and Conditions of Service

This appointment is made under the King's College London Terms and Conditions of Service for Research staff a copy of which is available from the Recruitment Team upon request.

## Probation

6 months

## Annual leave

27 working days per annum pro rata (please note the annual leave year runs from January-December) bank holidays and customary closure days in are in addition to the annual leave entitlement. Staff receive four additional customary closure days in December. Notification as to how these days are taken is circulated at the start of the academic year.

## Superannuation

This appointment is superannuable under the USS [www.uss.co.uk](http://www.uss.co.uk) pension scheme. In accordance with recent legislation, we automatically enrolls our staff in a pension scheme if they meet certain age and earning criteria. This is known as auto-enrolment. The university collects pension contributions via a salary sacrifice method called *PensionsPlus*. These deductions are made before the calculation of tax and national insurance is calculated; therefore reducing the amount you pay.

Staff already superannuated under the NHS Superannuation Scheme may opt to remain in that scheme provided an application to do so is received by the NHS scheme trustees within three months of appointment to King's College London. Please note that NHS Superannuation Scheme: Medical Schools are classed as "Direction Employers" and some benefits of the NHS Scheme are not available to Direction members.

Alternatively, staff may opt to take out a personal pension. Please note that the university does not provide an employer's contribution towards a private pension plan.

## Staff benefits

King's College London offers a wide range of staff benefits. For the full comprehensive list of staff benefits please refer to our website: [www.kcl.ac.uk/hr/staffbenefits](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/hr/staffbenefits)

## Equal opportunities

King's College London recognises that equality of opportunity and the recognition and promotion of diversity are integral to its academic and economic strengths. The following principles apply in respect of the university's commitment to equality and diversity:

- To provide and promote equality of opportunity in all areas of its work and activity;
- To recognise and develop the diversity of skills and talent within its current and potential community;
- To ensure that all university members and prospective members are treated solely on the basis of their merits, abilities and potential without receiving any unjustified discrimination or unfavourable treatment on grounds such as age, disability, marital status, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, trans status, socio-economic status or any other irrelevant distinction;
- To provide and promote a positive working, learning, and social environment which is free from prejudice, discrimination and any forms of harassment, bullying or victimisation;
- To foster good relations between individuals from different groups and tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

King's has been a member of the Athena SWAN Charter since 2007 and gained its Bronze institutional award in 2008. Our award was successfully renewed in September 2013 for a further three years. The Athena SWAN agenda forms part of a wider suite of diversity and inclusion work streams. Working with the

Charter is helping King's to identify best practice for the working environment of all staff working in science disciplines.

## Applying for the post

At the bottom of the HireWire advert you will be directed to download and complete the required application form. Please then upload your application form via your profile into the HireWire system.

We will not accept curriculum vitae in isolation and you must complete the required application form for your application to be considered.

In the same document as the application form, please include:

- 1) a short statement of 1-3 pages setting out
  - your reasons for applying for the post, highlighting the particular skills and experience which you feel you would bring to the role, including experience working in interdisciplinary projects, methods used and countries,
  - when you will be available to take up the position.
  
- 2) a copy of a current curriculum vitae, which should include inter alia:
  - your full name with title
  - details of your present post with date of appointment
  - education
    - degrees (subject, class, institution, date of award)
    - other academic/professional qualifications (subject, level, institution, date of award)
    - distinctions other than degrees
  
  - teaching and research experience
  - administrative and management experience
  - grants obtained
  - publications
  - language skills (and level of competency in oral, reading, writing)
  - any other items you feel are relevant for this particular post
  - membership of professional and learned societies

### **Applicants with disabilities**

King's College London is keen to increase the number of disabled people it employs. We therefore encourage applications from individuals with a disability who are able to carry out the duties of the post. If you have special needs in relation to your application please contact the Recruitment Coordinator responsible for the administration of the post on [recruitmenttea14@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:recruitmenttea14@kcl.ac.uk)

Applications must be made electronically in Word or PDF format.