



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

EXTERNAL JOB VACANCIES (PROJECT POSITIONS)

Applications are invited for the following position:

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE SEARCH – GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE CONTRADICTIONS OF NEW WATER (GloNeW) Project, ADVERT REF: AD/1/5/26, 1 POST

The Project

The Institute for Climate Change and Adaptation (ICCA) and the Department of Earth and Climate Sciences at the University of Nairobi undertakes action-oriented research and teaching on climate risk management, water and ecosystems, adaptation technologies, policy, and sustainable development. Within this context, ICCA is hosting a Research Associate position under the ERC/UKRI-funded GloNeW (Global Development and the Contradictions of New Water) project, which investigates the use of unconventional water resources—such as desalination and wastewater reuse—to address Africa's growing water challenges and their social, political, and environmental implications. The post-holder will be based at ICCA, University of Nairobi, and will conduct research across Kenya on innovative water technologies, working with an international team from Kenya, Morocco, the UK, and France under the supervision of Principal Investigators.

The Position

The successful candidate will be based at the Institute for Climate Change and Adaptation in Nairobi and will involve fieldwork across Kenya. He/She will work full time under a structured research programme, with an attractive stipend and full coverage of operational research costs. The post is open to individuals with the right to work in Kenya and offers supervision and a supportive research environment throughout the contract period.

Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Review, assemble, and analyze existing literature and data on the development of unconventional water resources in Kenya and East Africa;
2. Design, organize, and conduct field-based research, including data collection from organizations involved in unconventional water provision and from water users;
3. Analyze and interpret qualitative and quantitative research data;

4. Contribute to the production and authorship of high-quality research outputs, including co-authored and single-authored articles in leading peer-reviewed journals;
5. Disseminate research findings through conference presentations, workshops, exhibitions, and contributions to the project website;
6. Undertake international travel related to the project, including at least one fully funded research visit to the United Kingdom.

Job Specification:

1. PhD degree in any of the following areas; Geography, Environmental Studies, Political Science, Sustainable Development or a related field; OR
2. A strong Master's degree in any of the following areas; Geography, Environmental Studies, Political Science, Sustainable Development or a related field;
3. Knowledge of water challenges and key debates within the water sector;
4. Experience of undertaking high quality research, including qualitative data collection (interviews, focus groups);
5. Ability to analyse qualitative data from interviews and focus groups;
6. Desire to learn and explore new intellectual territory;
7. Ability to write high-quality research outputs (including academic papers and reports);
8. Motivation and ability to work collaboratively in an international team, including multiple disciplines, cultures, languages and environments;
9. Willingness to undertake fieldwork research in Kenya, involving travel to different parts of the country;
10. Demonstrate strong communication skills, both oral and written;
11. Motivation to work independently.

Desirable:

1. Experience of working in, or understanding of, Kenya's water sector;
2. Experience of reporting and presenting research findings to a variety of audiences;
3. Familiarity with multidisciplinary/transdisciplinary approaches to research.

Terms of appointment:

The post is fully funded by the project, and is available for a period of 48 months (four years). The project includes a budget for fieldwork, training, and visits to University of Bristol.

Notes:

1. Applicants should email a cover letter, 500 word motivation statement related to the proposed research theme , two page CV ,certified copies of BA/BSc, MA/MSc, and PhD degree certificates, and three references, at least one of which must be an academic reference indicating their telephone and e-mail contacts;
2. Applications and related documents should be forwarded addressed to the Director, Human Resource, University of Nairobi;
3. Applicants should state their current designations, salaries and other benefits attached to those designations;
4. The application letter must bear the reference code indicated in the advertisement;
5. Late applications will not be considered;
6. Applications should be emailed as one file in PDF to: recruit-ragioccaa@uonbi.ac.ke

CLOSING DATE: JANUARY 29, 2026

THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER
ONLY SHORTLISTED APPLICANTS WILL BE CONTACTED
WOMEN ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.