



Research Associate/Scientist - Field Coordination and Observations Research

Position Description

The Cooperative Institute for Severe and High-Impact Weather Research and Operations (CIWRO) at The University of Oklahoma is currently seeking a Research Associate or Research Scientist to provide field work coordination and conduct observational research in collaboration with CIWRO and National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL) scientists. The position focuses on the support of data collection related to severe storm environment and hazard studies, using NSSL and partner observing platforms. Other responsibilities may include data curation and analysis, development of analysis tools and software, and/or research aligned with Verification of the Origins of Rotation in Tornadoes Experiment (VORTEX) Program objectives. The position is connected to the Developmental Research and Engineering for Applied Meteorology (DREAM) team based at CIWRO in Norman, Oklahoma, within the National Weather Center (NWC).

Overview

CIWRO, NSSL, the School of Meteorology at The University of Oklahoma, and the broader research community at the NWC have a rich history of collaboration on pioneering research in the areas of boundary layer meteorology, mesoscale processes, and severe storms and impacts. The CIWRO DREAM team is intricately involved in CIWRO and NSSL's field activities, including the uncrewed aircraft system research program, radiosonde to large payload ballooning, deployment of mobile crewed and uncrewed assets and platforms, and field data stewardship. Field activities may range from sampling quiescent conditions to making near-storm measurements of hail, tornadoes, winter weather, hurricanes, and other high-impact weather events. The incumbent in this position will coordinate field activities and support deployment planning, including asset readiness and personnel preparation, scheduling, and training considerations, in collaboration with university and federal partners. The incumbent will be part of the collaborative team of researchers with diverse data collection interests at NSSL and CIWRO, where this position contributes to the breadth of ongoing research on measurement and instrument development, analysis techniques, and applications related to high-impact severe weather.

The duties of this position are:

1. Coordinate safe and effective field missions and collection of meteorological data related to high-impact weather and its environment.
2. Support interactions between CIWRO and NSSL field personnel management.
3. Assist with maintenance of field deployment instruments and related support and safety equipment.
4. Support field data stewardship.
5. Contribute to scientific proposals to relate meteorological processes with measurement assets available at CIWRO/NSSL (e.g., radars, balloons, uncrewed aircraft systems, cameras, etc.).
6. Present findings and results via publications and presentations at conferences and other professional meetings.
7. (Research Scientist only) Build an independent severe storms research portfolio.

Qualifications

- A Master's degree (Research Associate) or PhD (Research Scientist) in meteorology or related field
- Experience collecting and analyzing meteorological data
- Competency in task, resource, and/or personnel management
- Excellent oral and written communication skills with an ability to work both independently and collaboratively with others

Applicants should identify expertise within one or more of the following areas (an applicant need not demonstrate experience in all areas to be considered):

- field deployment planning
- meteorological data collection
- interrogation of observed meteorological data
- instrumentation maintenance
- practical experience working with electronics or mechanical design
- programming skills
- data management
- project and/or personnel management
- development or leadership of training activities
- documentation of processes and procedures

Normal working hours will be routinely observed with some seasonal irregular hours during active field deployments (e.g., field deployments can last 1-5 days, including preparation, travel, and undeploy and refurbishment activities). The incumbent will receive training and gain expertise with the observation platforms available to the CIWRO and NSSL team.

Supervision will be provided by CIWRO staff. Technical guidance may be provided by CIWRO or NSSL scientists. The incumbent will work under general supervision but is expected to complete work independently while still contributing to the group working environment.

Benefits and Work-Life Balance

Joining our team comes with numerous benefits, including:

- Competitive salary based on experience; comprehensive university benefits (<http://hr.ou.edu/>).
- Generous paid leave, encompassing 15 paid holidays and 22 hours of accrued paid time off per month.
- Reduced membership at the University of Oklahoma's state-of-the-art fitness and aquatic center (<https://www.ou.edu/far>).

More details about working at the University of Oklahoma, benefits packages, as well as living in Norman, Oklahoma are provided on our website: <https://jobs.ou.edu/Discover-OU>.

We are dedicated to promoting a healthy work-life balance by championing a flexible work culture, offering adaptable work hours and a hybrid work arrangement. This empowering framework enables team

members to seamlessly navigate personal commitments while effectively contributing to their professional responsibilities.

Application Process

Applications should be sent to ciwro-careers@ou.edu, “**Attn: VORTEX Field Coordination**,” and include a cover letter, the applicant’s curriculum vitae, and names and contact information of three references. The cover letter must highlight the applicant’s relevant qualifications and expertise as well as how they can contribute to the team. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The starting date is negotiable.

The University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity/Affirmative Action employer.