

Postdoctoral fellowship in Arctic climate modelling available at the Université catholique de Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve

The Georges Lemaître Centre for Earth and Climate Research (TECLIM; www.uclouvain.be/teclim) / Earth and Life Institute of the Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL), Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium is seeking a postdoctoral fellow for participation to the APPLICATE EU project (Advanced Prediction in Polar regions and beyond: Modelling, observing system design and Linkages associated with ArctiC ClimATE change). APPLICATE is a Horizon 2020 4-year project, expected to be funded by the European Commission and coordinated by the Alfred Wegener Institute, Bremerhaven (16 partners), that aims at advancing our ability to model and predict the Arctic climate system along with its impacts on the weather and climate in lower latitudes.

The successful candidate will contribute to a better specification of the Arctic observing system requirements, that will be crucial for major initiatives such as the Year of Polar Prediction. He/she will first contribute to analyse the quality and reliability of existing reanalyses in the Arctic used for the initialization of current operational forecasts. He/she will then investigate results from the EC-Earth (www.ec-earth.org) general circulation model in order to better characterize the type of data, their coverage and the frequency of sampling needed to achieve skilful predictions. Finally, he/she will explore different techniques of initialization in EC-Earth and highlight their respective impact on prediction skill.

The successful candidate should have a PhD in large-scale climate, sea ice or ocean modelling, with strong interests for prediction aspects. Experience in data assimilation in geophysical systems is a plus. Advanced programming, post-processing and data management/analysis skills are required. He/she should be fluent in English due to the multiple interactions planned with other APPLICATE partners during the project and should have demonstrated ability in team working.

The position is offered for 2 years, with a possibility of extension. The salary will be commensurate with experience according to the UCL rates.

Expected date for entry on duty: 1st November 2016.

Applicants should send (i) a statement of research experience, qualification and interest, (ii) a complete CV including a list of publications, and (iii) two letters of recommendation via e-mail to Prof. Thierry Fichefet (thierry.fichefet@uclouvain.be).

The call is open until the position is filled.