



GFDRR
Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery

NERC Innovation Placements Call 2017

Innovation Placement opportunity

The [Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery \(GFDRR\)](#) invites existing researchers to apply for placements of 6 months to facilitate greater sharing and use of data in disaster risk assessment, with the global risk information and modelling community. The focus will be on identification and sourcing of data on environmental hazards and their impacts, within the UK academic community which could be used in risk assessments for disaster risk reduction.

It is envisaged that they will remain at their research organisation but work closely with GFDRR and make links to a wide range of research organisations across the UK. The project could include a short time at the Secretariat of the GFDRR which is housed at the World Bank headquarters in Washington DC.

Background and context

Since 1980, natural disasters caused more than 2.5 million fatalities of which around 95% occurred in developing countries. The impacts of natural disasters are increasing, primarily driven by changes in exposure (e.g. ever more people are concentrated in exposed areas such as coastal regions) but also vulnerability (e.g. interconnected global supply chains are highly vulnerable to disruption) as well as the hazards themselves. Without concerted action, the impacts of natural disasters will continue to increase.

The UN [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#) sets out a series of goals to increase action on disaster risk management and reduce the number of lives and livelihoods lost. It recognises that the first step toward reduce the adverse effects of disasters is robust understanding and assessments of risks from natural hazards and climate change. It is only with good risk data and analyses, communicated in a clear and understandable way, that people will be able to invest in disaster risk management.

The [Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery \(GFDRR\)](#) provides specialized knowledge, technical and financial assistance to help developing countries better understand and reduce their vulnerability to natural hazards and climate change. It is a global partnership of the World Bank, United Nations, and major donors, and works closely with UN agencies, client governments, World Bank regional offices, and other partners. The GFDRR are using data to develop tools, including a hazard screening tool ([Thinkhazard.org](#)) and [Open Data for Resilience](#) to increase access to data for disaster risk assessment and management.

There is a wealth of data, knowledge, models and skills in the UK research base which could inform the understanding of disaster risk and tools for risk assessments, such as those being developed by GFDRR.

Placement objectives

The overarching aim of this Innovation Placement is to facilitate greater sharing and use of data with utility in disaster risk assessment, with the global risk information and modelling community.

The focus will be on identification and sourcing of data on environmental hazards, and their impacts (e.g. on buildings, infrastructure, economy, livelihoods etc.) which exists within the UK academic community, for direct input into risk assessments. A second aim is to inform development of new datasets, where the expertise and interests of research groups align with identified gaps in data availability. To that end, reference data that may not be directly input to risk assessments, but can be used to develop disaster risk data (e.g., topographic, atmospheric, hydrological data) should also be identified.

This will involve:

- Building relationships with academic research groups and other data providers (e.g. data centres) across the UK, to identify and collaborate with data owners to make suitable data sets and their metadata open for use in the risk community,
- Communicating the vision, benefits, and ways that open data can be used in environmental hazard assessment and risk management
- Assessing the utility of that data for use in risk information sharing tools and disaster risk assessment, such as GFDRR thinkhazard.org, InaSAFE and GeoSAFE, the GFDRR Open Risk Data Dashboard, or as input to a new multi-hazard risk database, being developed through the DFID Challenge Fund.
- Collaborating with data producers / owners to enable access to and sharing of data by members of the global risk community, for example via existing online data tools such as GFDRR's GeoNode and other relevant spatial databases (e.g., OASISHUB risk data catalogue),

The data sourced can be global, regional or local in coverage, and applicable to any natural hazard. There is particular interest in identifying data for low and middle income countries.

Applicant profile

Whilst there is some technical expertise required, the main thrust of this placement is building relationships and collaborations across the academic community, GFDRR and the wider risk community for open data sharing.

It is anticipated that successful applicants will

- Have (or be working on) a PhD related to natural hazards, or related discipline
- Be familiar with and supportive of the aims of open data (ideally related to disaster risk management)
- Be familiar with common data issues including data transfer mechanisms, intellectual property and processes required to manipulate data into different formats
- Be willing to familiarise themselves with GFDRR tools and other open data initiatives to inform discussions with UK academics as potential collaborators
- Have a demonstrated network and experience of collaboration in the field of natural hazards

Application Process

All applicants interested in undertaking this placement are required to send a 1 page (max) statement of interest and 2 page (max) CV to asimpson1@worldbank.org by **Friday 26th May 2017**.

Before making contact, please ensure that you have read and fully comply with the NERC placement eligibility requirements outlined in the main call document.

GFDRR will use this information to decide which applicants to support and will contact those applicants to develop a detailed work plan. Only candidates eligible for NERC funding and with qualifications and interests compatible with GFDRR requirements will be contacted for further discussions. The chosen applicants will then need to work up a full funding application to be submitted to NERC by 16:00 on **29 June 2017**.

A Letter of Support is required from GFDRR.

Contact

For queries about this call, please contact:

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For technical queries regarding the content of the Placement at GFDRR please contact:

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