



Research and Investigations Officer

Candidate Pack

November 2022



Action for a Fair Water Future

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Background

Water Witness is an innovative Edinburgh based charity which leads action, research and advocacy for a fair water future where all people can access the water they need to thrive, and are protected against floods, drought, pollution, ecosystem degradation and water conflict.

We stand with those at the sharp end of the global water crisis to shine a light on its impacts, understand its root causes and activate an effective response. We work with inspirational local partners to trigger social justice and system change to ensure sustainable and equitable use of the world's most precious resource.

Over the past decade our team have been at the frontline: working to improve water security for over one million vulnerable people, driving improved policies and laws, building new approaches and communities of practice, and holding governments, corporations, and investors to account. Our hands-on field experience is backed up by cutting-edge research and global analyses, and this provides us with a clear understanding of the action needed to deliver the water-related Sustainable Development Goal, and the fairer water future we all need.

Our [2030 Strategy](#) builds on our track record as a dynamic NGO which unlocks improved water resource governance and water security for vulnerable communities. In the decade ahead we will work with our partners to focus on the following five imperatives:

1. **Accountable governance:** to implement effective and equitable water policy and law
2. **Progressive financing:** to unlock funding and financial incentives for water security
3. **Redefining corporate responsibility:** to transform private sector behaviour for shared water security
4. **Confronting climate chaos:** to prevent catastrophic water shocks and build resilience
5. **Activating people power:** to trigger political, social and economic change for water security

We are now seeking exceptional individuals with the skills and experience needed to deliver on our Strategy and the opportunities for positive change ahead.

The Role

Job Title:	Research and Investigations Officer
Place of Work:	Edinburgh, UK
Pay:	£30,577 – 35,531 (Grade 3) plus 8% pension contribution.
Reports to:	Research Practice Lead
Term:	Initial 2-year contract - transitioning to a permanent position subject to funding and performance

Job Summary and Purpose

This is a new and strategically important role in a small but mighty team, reporting to the Water Witness Research Practice Lead. The post holder will be responsible for rigorous research and investigations into the water and climate challenges facing vulnerable communities around the world, their root causes, and actionable solutions. This work will strengthen the evidence base of reliable knowledge and stakeholder voices which are the foundations of our advocacy and action for a fairer water future. We are seeking a diligent, dynamic and dedicated individual who is equally comfortable analysing literature or interrogating global datasets as when delivering interdisciplinary field investigations with diverse collaborators.

The post holder will support staff and partners in the UK and globally with high quality research, learning and documentation across each of the organisation's five imperatives for change. They will play a key role in delivering our Accountability for Water and Fair Water Footprints Programmes, which focus on generating evidence to hold governments and corporations to account for sustainable and equitable water management, as well as stimulating citizen action for water justice in both the global north and south. The successful candidate must be an exceptional communicator and have a sound technical understanding of water, climate, or development issues. They will possess the organisational skills, political acumen, and professional confidence to plan and deliver complex, non-standard activities in a fast-moving environment. The postholder will provide technical support to deliver the Fair Water Footprints Declaration, the ground-breaking political commitment to water justice in globalised supply chains established by 28 founding Signatories at COP26.

The position will be based in Water Witness's Edinburgh offices and will involve regular overseas travel to support research in sometimes difficult contexts.

We are looking for an individual with passion for our mission, expertise in multi-disciplinary field and desk-based investigations, and experience of generating and using knowledge to trigger social justice, environmental protection, or sustainable development.

Key working relationships and logistical arrangements

The Research and Investigations Officer reports to the Research Practice Lead. The role will also work closely with our Senior Management Team, international programme teams and partners.

Duties and responsibilities

We are seeking an experienced researcher with a passion for social justice and environmental protection and a keen understanding of the role of research and evidence in driving real-world change.

Responsibilities include:

- Planning and delivery of desk and field-based multi-disciplinary research, to support delivery of strategic advocacy, campaign, and communications objectives.
- Research and analysis into the water footprints of countries and corporations, and in particular, tracing global supply chains from water impacts in places of production to consumer use, ensuring a reliable chain of evidence.
- Coordinating field research logistics, including working with diverse partners to scope out and document priority water and climate-related problems in Africa, Asia and S. America.
- Design and delivery of engagement events, participatory analysis and planning exercises with local community, business and government stakeholders.
- Writing-up findings and production of engaging reports, briefings and other outputs for a range of audiences.
- Working closely with the Fair Water Footprints and Accountability for Water teams and partners to develop research strategies which generate evidence to support our goals.
- Working closely with the communications team to create compelling content, shape dissemination plans, and communicate research findings in accessible and engaging ways.
- Documentation of case studies and stakeholder voices.
- Shaping advocacy strategy and delivery using a wide range of tactics and media.
- Contributing to organizational learning, monitoring, evaluation and knowledge management.
- Providing high quality technical support and advice to teams, communities and partner organisations.

Person Specification

This role will suit a proactive individual with experience of applying their technical knowledge and research skills to target high impact advocacy and communications.

Experience and qualifications:

- Demonstrable experience of planning and delivering high-quality investigations and research.
- A track record of using research and analysis to understand complex challenges, generate evidence and target solutions for environmental and/or social change.
- Ability to synthesise and package complex findings for a wide range of audiences, including through production of influential reports, presentations, graphics and other content.
- Successful coordination of projects and programmes and of working effectively with diverse stakeholders, partners and teams.
- Expertise and experience in at least one of: climate change, international development, water, public health, environment, or governance.
- Working knowledge of research communications and evidence-based advocacy.
- Experience of managing complex logistics and safe delivery of field work in challenging contexts.
- Relevant post-graduate degree (desirable)
- Good understanding of the political economy of global water and climate crises (desirable)
- Experience of supporting monitoring, evaluation and learning. (desirable)

Skills and attributes:

- Empathetic and proactive problem solver, quick to establish strong working relationships with a diverse range of partners and stakeholders
- Strategic thinker and solutions-focused team player, with a collaborative approach to achieving results.
- A motivated, well-organised and practical professional, able to manage multiple priorities whilst ensuring attention to detail.
- Committed to diversity, equality, and inclusion.
- Clear understanding of and commitment to Water Witness' mission.



How to apply

All correspondence should be sent to jobs@waterwitness.org with 'Research and Investigations Officer' in the subject line. Please provide a CV and cover letter in ONE single document. The cover letter should be no more than two pages long, and should set out why you want this position, and how your skills and experience make you a good fit. Applicants should also attach a recent report which they have authored which demonstrates their relevant knowledge and communication skills.

NOTE: APPLICATIONS WHICH DO NOT MEET THESE REQUIREMENTS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED

Timeline

Closing date:	12 noon Mon 28th Nov 2022
Interviews:	w/c 5 th December 2022
Expected start:	January 2023

Equality Statement

Equality and diversity are at the core of Water Witness' values. We are committed to equal opportunities for all, and to welcoming people from a wide diversity of abilities, cultures and experience. **On this occasion only those with the right to work and live in the UK should apply.**

Selection Process

We will only use the information you provide to process your application. For more details on how we use your information, see our [applicants privacy notice](#). By emailing us, you are permitting us to use the information you have provided for recruitment purposes. Shortlisted candidates may be required to undertake an additional assessment prior to final interview.

Queries

If you have any queries on any aspect of the appointment process, or need additional information, please email jobs@waterwitness.org.