

Ocean Scientist The Met Office

Location: Exeter
Salary: £26,010 to £35,040
depending on experience +
excellent benefits.
Hours: Full Time
Contract Type: Permanent
Placed on: 17th October 2016
Closes: 31st October 2016

Salary Information: £26,010 (scientist) to £35,040 (senior scientist) depending on experience + excellent benefits.

Background

The award-winning Met Office Headquarters in Exeter is home to the most amazing facilities and world-class employees. Innovative and cutting-edge (we work with the likes of NASA), this is the place to work in the South West. A modern gym, sports clubs and societies, free onsite parking, restaurant and cafe, coming to work each day will make you feel challenged, fascinated and rewarded.

Other benefits include:

- Annual Leave starting at 27.5 days (+ Bank holidays) rising to 32.5 days.
- Flexible working hours available to promote work/life balance.
- A choice of pension schemes, so you can plan for your future.
- Extensive career development/promotional opportunities.
- 'Cycle to Work' scheme to enable affordable, healthy travel.
- Many more benefits including healthcare and childcare plans

The Ocean Forecasting Research & Development (OFR&D) group develop, evaluate, maintain and support a range of operational ocean and wave models. The group is responsible for the science behind the reanalyses and the forecasts produced by the Met Office for the world's oceans and regional seas. Increasingly, the OFR&D group are working on coupled Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) systems to investigate coupled ocean-atmosphere forecasting on weather timescales. The group creates products which are central to the EU Copernicus Marine Service, to support naval operations and to provide information of use to commercial customers.

The Global Ocean Forecasting team within OFR&D are responsible for implementing developments into the global and basin-scale components of the operational Forecast Ocean

Assimilation Model (FOAM) system. They maintain and support this system which is used to produce daily operational analyses and forecasts for customers. The team are also providing ocean expertise to the implementation of a low resolution 'coupled data assimilation system' in the operational suite. This system will initially be a demonstration suite but will provide Copernicus products from 2017 and the resolution is expected to be increased over the next couple of years with the aim of implementing a high profile global operational coupled NWP system providing both weather and short-range ocean forecast products.

Job Purpose

The post holder will contribute to the maintenance and support of the ocean/sea ice component of the Met Office's FOAM and operational coupled data assimilation systems and contribute to their improvement and evaluation.

Job Responsibilities

- Gain expertise in the performance of the data assimilation within the operational systems and provide advice and support in the case of model failures or problems
- Understand the way new model science or other technical changes in the NEMO ocean configuration interacts with the data assimilation system and help to develop and test any required changes
- Work with members of the Marine Data Assimilation team to implement improvements in the way ocean observations influence the FOAM and coupled data assimilation systems
- Carry out trials and other tests in both the ocean and coupled data assimilation systems and assess the ocean component within those systems
Present the work of Ocean Forecasting R&D, both at conferences and meetings, and in the literature
- Liaise with relevant groups outside Ocean Forecasting R&D, including other Met Office groups, the wider academic community and collaborators

Essential Qualifications, Skills & Abilities

- Degree (2:1 or above, a 2:2 may be considered in exceptional circumstances) in mathematics, physics, meteorology, oceanography or related subject with a significant mathematical content
- A PhD in ocean science, data assimilation, ensemble forecasting or a closely related area or equivalent research experience
- A good knowledge and/or substantive productive experience working with scientific computer codes
- Demonstrated ability to be self-driven and work well independently
- Demonstrated, clear communication skills both written and oral
- Ability to work well in a team environment and with other teams

Desirable Qualifications, Skills & Abilities

- Experience with Met Office systems such as NEMO and NEMOVAR
- Proven ability in developing and using ocean models and/or ocean data assimilation systems
- Relevant scientific papers published in peer-reviewed literature
- Experience assessing the performance of numerical models

