

The [McKinnon group](#) at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) is seeking a postdoctoral scholar to develop and apply novel statistical and machine learning methods towards the goal of modeling and predicting temperature variability and extremes. We are particularly interested in quantifying the relative roles of the atmosphere and land surface in causing or modifying the statistics of daily temperature. The postdoctoral scholar will work closely with both Professor McKinnon and Dr. Isla Simpson at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) to analyze large and diverse datasets, including station data, reanalyses, and climate model output. The selected applicant will also work in parallel with Wenwen Kong, a current postdoctoral scholar using idealized climate model simulations as a tool to explore these same science questions. The position is funded in part by the National Science Foundation.

While we prefer that the selected candidate will join us in-person at UCLA once travel and relocation is possible, we are open to discussing remote work. We will support conference travel, travel to collaborate in-person with Dr. Simpson in Boulder, and other professional development. The successful candidate would join an active community of postdocs at UCLA; see <https://www.postdoc.ucla.edu/> for resources and information.

Responsibilities:

- Develop descriptive and predictive statistical models for temperature variability and extremes
- Integrate observationally-based analyses with physical insights from a hierarchy of climate models
- Publish results in high-quality, peer-reviewed journals
- Present results at conferences and seminars

Minimum qualifications:

- PhD in atmospheric sciences or related field
- Experience with statistical modeling and/or machine learning
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Proficiency in python (preferred), Matlab, or other data analysis software
- Ability and desire to pursue research both independently and as part of a team

Preferred qualifications:

- Fluency in python
- Substantial coursework and/or research experience in statistical modeling

The initial appointment will be for a 12 month period, with the possibility of renewal for an additional 12 months subject to satisfactory performance. Salary will be commensurate with experience.

To apply, please submit a cover letter explaining your interests and relevant qualifications, a current CV, and contact information for three references through UCLA Recruit, <https://recruit.apo.ucla.edu/JPF06365>. Only references for shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications will be accepted until filled, however to ensure full consideration, applications must be submitted by 11:59pm on May 19, 2021. The selected candidate can begin the position in the summer or fall.

Questions about the position may be directed to Karen McKinnon (kmckinnon@ucla.edu).