



**CGFI**

UK Centre for  
Greening Finance  
& Investment

**CGFI ASSOCIATE  
BUSINESS FELLOWS  
*CALL FOR APPLICATIONS*  
2022**



Imperial College  
London



University of  
Reading



The  
Alan Turing  
Institute



Science and  
Technology  
Facilities Council

## **ASSOCIATE BUSINESS FELLOWS AT THE UK CENTRE FOR GREENING FINANCE AND INVESTMENT (CGFI) 2022 CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

On an ongoing basis we are recruiting Associate Business Fellows, each with significant knowledge of financial institution risk management and investment decision making processes to integrate climate and environmental risk analytics. These appointments will be part-time, flexible, and unpaid, and the term of appointment is one year in the first instance and renewable based on performance.

We are looking for individuals with an expertise and interest in climate and environmental issues and their implications for the financial system and financial decision-making, particularly the following topics: wind and flood risks in portfolios; physical climate risk across infrastructure and supply chains; litigation risk and environmental damages; transition risk and alignment; and TCFD/TNFD disclosures. The Fellows will help apply academic research in real world contexts, translate research outputs into usable formats, support training and capacity building activities and overall support the mainstreaming of climate and environmental analytics in financial decision-making. We expect Fellows to inform CGFI about financial institution requirements and needs, help CGFI develop products and tools tailored to financial institution workflows, and champion the use of climate and risk analytics across their organisation and the financial services more broadly. This will involve contributing to open publications, data outputs and events.

The positions are part-time, and applicants are expected to retain a primary affiliation with another organisation during the duration of their appointment. Time commitments are flexible. Ideally applicants will be working for a financial institution, financial profession, or financial services provider. Applicants must demonstrate that their organisation is supportive of their application and see value in the applicant spending a proportion of their time as an Associate Business Fellow. Fellows will be able to support research and projects in line with their personal interests or those of their organisation and will bring back to their organisation a much better understanding of climate and environmental analytics for finance, as well as enhanced networks and renewed confidence to tackle issues related to greening finance and investment.

As part of this opportunity, the Fellows will be able to work alongside world-leading researchers and other CGFI partners. We will introduce Fellows to the world-class research facilities and networks at the CGFI partner institutions in Oxford, Bristol, Leeds, London, and Reading. Associate Business Fellows will be affiliated with the Centre for Greening Finance and Investment.

## APPLICANT CRITERIA

- Higher degree (Master's degree or higher) or at least 10 years professional experience
- Support from their current employer
- Experience in risk management and investment decision-making within financial institutions
- Strong interest in climate and environmental issues and applying climate and environmental analytics for financial decision-making

## HOW TO APPLY

Send a CV, cover letter, letter of support from your current employer, and two examples of written work (no longer than 2,500 words each) to [jimena.alvarez@smithschool.ox.ac.uk](mailto:jimena.alvarez@smithschool.ox.ac.uk)

This is a rolling application process where applications are reviewed periodically throughout 2022. Appointments start dates are flexible throughout 2022.

## UK CENTRE FOR GREENING FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

In February, the Government announced the establishment of the UK [Centre for Greening Finance and Investment](#) (CGFI) led by the University of Oxford in partnership with four other world-leading UK universities and partners from across the financial sector, public sector, and academia. The CGFI is a new UK national centre, established to accelerate the adoption and use of climate and environmental data and analytics by financial institutions. The CGFI contributes to the UK's Green Finance Strategy and the COP26 Finance Agenda and aims to help unlock opportunities for the UK to lead internationally in greening finance and financing green.

Climate and environmental risks to our economy and society are accelerating. Greening finance is about ensuring that the financial risks and opportunities from climate and environmental factors are integrated into mainstream financial decision making. This is essential both to ensure the resilience of the financial system to these growing risks but is also a necessary condition to support the reallocation of capital away from riskier activities, such as coal-fired power plants and deforestation, and towards the cleaner and greener technologies, infrastructure, and business models needed to deliver the net zero carbon transition, resilience, and sustainable development.

The vision of the CGFI is to help pave the way for financial institutions ultimately being able to access and use consistent, timely, and appropriate climate and environmental data and analytics for any point on planet earth historically, in the present, and projected into the future, for every major sector, and for the complete spectrum of material risks. Through the CGFI, UK Science and UK Finance will work together to help the global economy transition to a net zero, resilient and nature positive future. It will draw upon world-leading UK innovation and capability, including in earth observation, geospatial and climate analytics and artificial intelligence. It will work with financial professions, such as the Chartered Bankers Institute, Chartered Financial Analysts UK and the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment and the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries, to ensure that every professional financial decision can take climate change into account.

### CGFI Principles, Ethos and Culture

*Solutions-focused.* Principles of wide engagement and co-production are embedded throughout our activities to ensure relevant, solutions-led research and outputs. Flagship projects involve key industry partners as collaborators and respond to the needs of defined sets of use cases.

*How we will work is crucial to our success.* The solutions-led nature of the project demands an agile approach to ensure we can meet evolving demands. Our vision cannot be achieved in disciplinary siloes or through an individualist approach - teamwork is central. We will work in interdisciplinary and diverse teams and implement effective governance and processes for monitoring, evaluation, and learning.

*Quality, consistency, transparency, robustness, and reliability of outputs.* It is critical that our outputs are relevant, high-quality, and timely. To achieve this, we use a clear, consistent, structured approach to developing Climate and Environmental Risk (CER) analytics with rigorous treatment of uncertainty and confidence levels. All flagships build upon a strong foundation of high-quality analytical 'building blocks', standards and risk frameworks, grounded on asset-level data overlaid with measures of CER. Activities will be founded on world-leading physical, natural, and environmental science. Openness and transparency are also core principles to build trust and ensure that our open products create a foundation upon which others can build.

*Focus on impact.* A clear message from our partners is that a key role for CGFI must also be in raising awareness of the materiality of CER and widening the dialogue with Financial Institutions (FIs) beyond specialists. Capability building and outreach will be crucial.

*Interoperability, standards, and building upon what exists.* CERAF will not create a whole new architecture that is divorced from what exists. A central principle is to integrate existing data, knowledge, and platforms wherever possible, ensure interoperability and focus on filling gaps. The data architecture builds upon two UKRI initiatives, JASMIN and DAFNI, and will employ FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable) standards and consistent approaches to ensure interoperability with other platforms, including OASIS, Icebreaker One, and CLIMADA.

*Demand-led innovation and translational research.* We will deliver new research and innovation where there are clear and material gaps, for example, around developing consistent methods to quantify cascading, compounding, and systemic risks, and approaches to reconcile conflicting information by understanding the underlying science. The CGFI will provide a two-way platform to link FIs to wider UK science/ROs including through events and access to our e-infrastructure.

*Pre-competitive positioning.* The purpose of CGFI is to crowd-in and catalyse innovation in the private sector. As such, CGFI will always operate in a pre-competitive space to allow FIs to use either open data directly or added value products developed using this open information by the developing ecosystem of FinTech businesses which the centre will foster and support.

*Diversity and inclusion.* We will actively seek opportunities to enhance diversity particularly in our work to build the next generation of CER experts e.g. creating opportunities for studentships and placements with FIs. Gender and diversity are also critical in our research and innovation to align with our aim of building a resilient financial system for all.



## CONTACT DETAILS

For more information and to engage with the Centre, contact us at the address below.

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