

OPEN POSITION

Functions:	<p>Post-doctoral fellow in the framework of the project entitled "REALISTIC" financed by the European Commission under the programme HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-TALENTS-01</p> <p>Aerosol climatology in the South West of the Indian Ocean and the evolution of the properties of the aerosols of long-range transport origin</p>
Job Description	
Category:	A
Corps:	<p>Fixed-term contract agent Recruitment at the level: Post-doctoral</p>
Affectation	
Administrative:	University of Reunion Island / Unit: LACy (Atmosphere and Cyclone Laboratory)
Workload:	Full time
Location:	Saint-Denis, La Réunion (French Department in Indian Ocean), Moufia campus, 15 avenue René Cassin, 97400 Saint-Denis
Contract condition	
Starting date:	As soon as possible
Length:	Until 30 November 2027
Financing:	EU HORIZON
Missions	
Research context:	<p>Atmospheric aerosols interact with solar radiation and the life cycle of clouds, inducing radiative forcing that impacts climate on a global scale. To date, there are still many unknowns about the effect of atmospheric aerosols on the radiative balance of the coupled Earth/atmosphere system at regional scale, especially in the southern hemisphere where water covers 81% of the surface and where atmospheric observatories are more seldom (w.r.t. the northern hemisphere). In this sense, the site of LACy/OPAR (Laboratoire de l'Atmosphère et des Cyclones / Observatoire de Physique de l'Atmosphère de la Réunion) is unique and ideally located in the South West of the Indian Ocean (SWIO).</p>

Corresponding assigned activities:

The objective of this post-Doc project is the establishment of an aerosol climatology in the SWIO, the identification of their sources and the study of the properties of the aerosols of long-range transport origin in the troposphere in the Southern Hemisphere. This work aims at answering the following scientific questions:

- What is the climatology of the tropospheric aerosols in the SWIO?
- What are the main sources of the aerosols driving the observed AOD variability in the SWIO and their share at arrival in the SWIO?
- How do evolve the aerosol properties (size distribution, shape, absorption and scattering properties, hygroscopicity, and vertical distributions of these parameters) along their transport in the troposphere of the Southern Hemisphere?

The work will be divided into 3 distinct parts:

1. NDACC aerosol database 2013-2025: climatology in the tropospheric altitude range.
2. Identification of the long-range transport aerosol sources with FLEXPART tailored products for ACTRIS.
3. Retrieval and monitoring of aerosol characteristics along their transport using ground-based and spaceborne (EarthCARE, essentially) remote sensing observations.

The position is funded by the European project REALISTIC (centre of Excellence in Aerosol remote sensing technology and Science in The Indian Ocean, GA 101086690) of the Horizon Europe program (<https://realistic.univ-reunion.fr/>). In REALISTIC, the post-doctoral fellow will work mostly on WP3 (tasks 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3) and WP5 (tasks 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4). They will be supervised by Michaël Sicard (ERA Chair of REALISTIC).

Conditions of employment

Post-Doctoral researcher will be appointed on a fixed-term employment contract ending on 30 November 2027, with a starting date as soon as possible.

The position is fully integrated within the REALISTIC project framework and offers remuneration and social benefits in accordance with the project's financial provisions and applicable institutional regulations.

The annual salary range is between 39k-47k€ depending on experience.

The recruitment and appointment procedures strictly comply with the principles of the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers (ISBN 92-894-9311-9). The University is committed to transparent, merit-based selection processes that ensure equal opportunities, non-discrimination, and the promotion of gender balance at all stages of recruitment and employment.

The conditions of employment are structured to support high-quality research and sustainable career development. Particular attention is given to the recognition of the research profession, the provision of an enabling and stimulating research environment, appropriate working conditions, and stability of employment for the duration of the contract. The framework also ensures competitive funding and salary conditions, access to research training and professional development, and opportunities for national and international mobility.

Clear institutional policies govern intellectual property rights, authorship and co-authorship practices, as well as supervision and teaching responsibilities, thereby safeguarding academic integrity and ensuring that researchers' contributions are duly recognised and protected.

The University of La Reunion

The University of Reunion Island (Université de la Réunion) is a French university in the Academy of Réunion. It is the first and only European university in the Indian Ocean. Established in 1982, it has grown steadily over the years in terms of student population, geographical sites occupied, courses offered and partnerships forged with local, national and international institutions. The school's ambition is to be the reference university in Indianoceania.

The University is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to providing a workplace free from all forms of unlawful discrimination, harassment, bullying, vilification and victimisation. The University is committed to all aspects of equal opportunity, diversity and inclusion in the workplace and to providing all staff, students, contractors, honorary appointees, volunteers and visitors with a safe, respectful and rewarding environment free from all forms of unlawful discrimination, harassment, vilification and victimisation. The University values diversity because we recognise that the differences in our people's age, race, ethnicity, culture, gender, nationality, sexual orientation, physical ability, religion and background bring richness to our work environment.

Laboratoire de l'Atmosphère et des Cyclones (LACy)

The LACy is a joint research unit between CNRS, Météo-France and University de La Réunion dedicated to the study of physical processes governing the tropical atmosphere. LACy has notably initiated the creation of the Maito atmospheric observatory, part of the Observatory of Atmospheric Physics of La Réunion (OPAR), which hosts various instruments for atmospheric measurements, including lidar systems, cloud radar, spectro-radiometers and in situ gas and aerosol measurements. The lab currently has 18 permanent staff (researchers, engineers, faculty members) and 8 PhD students.

REALISTIC

The candidate will join the REALISTIC team, composed of 2 researchers, 2 PhDs, 1 Research Engineer, and 1 Project Manager.

The overarching goal of REALISTIC is to develop a Centre of Excellence in aerosol remote sensing technology and science in the Indian Ocean, through the creation of a Chair, with La Réunion, a European Outermost region, as a strategic pivot point of the European Research Area. REALISTIC aims at attracting and maintaining a high-profile researcher (ERA Chair holder, Michaël Sicard) to lead a high-profile supporting team with excellent research and technical capabilities in the aerosol remote sensing domain.

In particular, specific applications and research endeavours will be conducted in the area of quantifying the impact of wildfire and volcanic emissions on the tropical atmosphere composition and on the Earth-Atmosphere radiative balance. REALISTIC is designed to catalyse and maximise the impact of the ERA Chair in order to raise the research, technical and innovation excellence of the LACy, OPAR, the Observatory of the Universe Sciences of La Réunion (OSU-R), and the University of La Réunion (UR) to a level that makes them unique and essential references in the local R&I ecosystem, at the Indian Ocean level as well as to the overall international community, and thus filling the R&I gap on atmospheric systems in the Southern Hemisphere.

REALISTIC will contribute to better integrate UR within the European Research Area, and better align with European standards and priorities.

At the end of your assignment, you will provide the project leader with a copy of the data and a scientific report documenting your work.

Skills and qualifications

Knowledge required:

- PhD in Atmospheric or Climate Sciences, or in a related field
- Proven research experience, as evidenced by strong record of research publications and presentations
- Experience in scientific use and interpretation of aerosol observations, especially remote sensing
- Proficiency in research English (oral and written)
- Practical experience of programming language such as Matlab, Python, etc.
- Autonomous and independent work
- Able to work in small teams
- Short and concise reports

Know-how:

Expertise/knowledge in the simulation and analysis of one or more of the following:

- Lidar data from the ground or from space
- Biomass burning aerosol properties

Assets:

- Proven ability to advance the state-of-the-art in climate science-related subject areas and/or related fields of study as is evidenced by original high-impact publications or a high h-index / other citation analysis
- Ability to conduct self-directed research
- Ability to work in multi-disciplinary research environments on problems comprising diverse application domains
- Excellent written and oral communication and interpersonal skills

- Ability to travel for business and research purposes
- Intellectual rigor
- Self-criticism of his/her results
- Strong taste for thinking and research
- Responsivity to react under strong time constraints

Application

Contact:

Michaël Sicard (michael.sicard@univ-reunion.fr), Camille Bonnet (camille.bonnet@univ-reunion.fr)

Application material:

Curriculum Vitae, Motivation Letter, List of grades/ transcripts (bachelor and master), contact information of 2 references and your PhD thesis.

To be sent to « recrutement-biatss@univ-reunion.fr », Michaël Sicard (michael.sicard@univ-reunion.fr), and Camille Bonnet (camille.bonnet@univ-reunion.fr)

Deadline:

Deadline to apply: April 24, 2026, 11:59 PM (GMT +4)