



Research Scientist – Social Science Research Team

Position Description

The Cooperative Institute for Severe and High-Impact Weather Research and Operations (CIWRO) at The University of Oklahoma (OU) is currently looking for a Research Scientist to work within the Social Science Research Team (SSRT). The SSRT is a cross-functional team in partnership with NOAA's National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL) that evaluates how severe weather and tornado forecast and warning information is created, used and acted upon by various entities including National Weather Service (NWS) forecasters, NWS partners (such as emergency managers and broadcast meteorologists) and the public. This position will be in Norman, OK, housed within the National Weather Center, a highly collaborative operational, research, and academic environment containing several NOAA and OU organizations. The successful candidate will work directly with development meteorologists and social scientists and will have opportunities to interact with the NWS, NSSL, and other NOAA labs, and the broader meteorological community.

Job Responsibilities

- Collect data regarding NWS partner and public interpretation of severe weather and tornado forecasts and warnings using both qualitative and quantitative methods (this may include developing surveys, developing interview guides, moderating focus groups and/or conducting interviews)
- Collect data from NWS forecasters, partners and members of the public after certain major tornado/severe weather events across the country (often in-person)
- Analyze data using applicable social science methods (for example, thematic coding or content analysis)
- Assist with data collection and analysis from Hazardous Weather Testbed experiments to better understand use of experimental products with both with NWS forecasters and partners (such as Probabilistic Hazard Information)
- Prepare documentation on scientific activities, including conference presentations, technical reports and journal publications
- Lead or collaborate on scientific research proposals related to severe weather and tornado forecast/warning interpretation
- Perform quality control and de-identification of human subjects research data, such as interview transcripts

Qualifications

- Ph.D. in Meteorology or Atmospheric Science with a background in social and behavioral science. Will also consider those with a Ph.D. in a social science field (for

example: Communication, Geography, Information Science) with a background in meteorology

- Experience working with social science data (human subjects research data) and using qualitative/quantitative research methods
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Demonstrated ability to work and communicate effectively in diverse team environments
- Willingness to travel occasionally for fieldwork/data collection

Desired Skills

- Proficiency working with survey platforms such as Qualtrics
- Proficiency working with statistical software packages or languages such as R, STATA, Python or similar
- Experience working with qualitative software packages such as NVivo, MaxQDA, or similar
- Experience with obtaining Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval and maintaining IRB research protocols
- Familiarity with roles of key stakeholder groups such as emergency managers, broadcast meteorologists or other NWS partners

Benefits and Work-Life Balance

Joining our team comes with numerous benefits, including:

- Competitive salary based on experience; comprehensive university benefits (<http://hr.ou.edu/>).
- Generous paid leave, encompassing 15 paid holidays and 22 hours of accrued paid time off per month.
- Reduced membership at the University of Oklahoma's state-of-the-art fitness and aquatic center (<https://www.ou.edu/far>).

More details about working at the University of Oklahoma, benefits packages, as well as living in Norman, Oklahoma are provided on our website: <https://jobs.ou.edu/Discover-OU>.

We are dedicated to promoting a healthy work-life balance by championing a flexible work culture, offering adaptable work hours and a hybrid work arrangement. This empowering framework enables team members to seamlessly navigate personal commitments while effectively contributing to their professional responsibilities.

How To Apply

Applications should be sent to [ciwro-careers@ou.edu](mailto:cwiro-careers@ou.edu), “**Attn: Social Science**”, and include a cover letter highlighting your interest and describing how you meet the position qualifications, your resume/CV and a list of three professional references. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The starting date is negotiable.

The University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity/Affirmative Action employer.