



New vacancy for Journal Editor-in-Chief

Voluntary Role

Open only to current UCL academic staff

Term: 5-year term (subject to agreement)

Deadline for applications: 27th July 2025

Lead a journal where community, impact and integrity meet

[UCL Open Environment](#), a non-commercial, open access journal from UCL Press, is seeking a new Editor-in-Chief (EiC) to lead the journal into its next phase of development. This is a timely and prestigious opportunity for a committed and experienced researcher who is passionate about advancing knowledge, shaping scholarly dialogue and building a connected community tackling the world's most pressing environmental challenges.

Why step into this role?

We recognise that many outstanding academics feel overextended. That's why we've shaped this role to be both purposeful and manageable - approximately 2-4 hours per week - while offering significant professional rewards.

- **Leadership visibility:** A credible and meaningful career milestone, ideal for those looking to build a professorial portfolio and broaden academic influence.
- **Community and impact:** Shape a journal built on values of openness, fairness, and inclusivity - trusted by policymakers, practitioners, and researchers across disciplines.
- **Flexible commitment:** Delegation to Deputy Editors and a growing Editorial Board allows the EiC to focus on strategy, quality, and growth.

Join us in advancing a publishing model where research thrives through openness, collaboration, and integrity.

[Learn more about UCLOE →](#)

About UCL Open Environment

UCL Open Environment is a pioneering platform for multidisciplinary environmental research that is:

- **Mission-led and community-driven:** Connecting research, policy, and practice to address planetary and public health, urban and environmental systems, and beyond.
- **Innovative in process:** With a transparent open peer review model built on a preprint server approach.
- **Inclusive by design:** With funding available to cover publication costs, and indexing in major databases including Scopus and PubMed Central.

Our ethos centres on making high-quality environmental research accessible, equitable and actionable – especially for underrepresented voices and non-traditional contributors.

About the Role

You will:

- **Provide strategic direction:** Shape journal aims, scope, and editorial policies; lead commissioning strategies; support indexing and reputation growth.
- **Strengthen the Editorial Board:** Recruit and empower a team of Editors and reviewers reflective of the journal's broad interdisciplinary scope.
- **Support quality publishing:** Oversee the triage of submissions, mentor editors, and ensure timely and rigorous peer review processes.
- **Be an advocate:** Represent the journal within and beyond UCL, promoting its values and increasing visibility in the global research ecosystem.

Who we're looking for

- A experienced researcher with demonstrated research excellence in one or more environment-related fields aligned with UCL Open Environment ([here](#)).
- A confident organiser and delegator, able to lead and grow an engaged Editorial Board.
- Someone with editorial insight and drive – ready to raise standards and build community, not just manage a workflow.
- A strong communicator who understands and upholds the principles of open science, fairness and equity.

How to apply

Deadline for applications: 27th July 2025

Please submit your application to online via UCL redeployment at:

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/work-at-ucl/search-ucl-jobs/details?jobId=35992&jobTitle=Editor-in-Chief%2C++UCL+Open+Environment+-+Voluntary+Role+open+only+to+current+UCL+academic+staff>

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an informal interview in August/September 2025. Our goal is to confirm an appointment by September/October 2025. Applications are welcomed from UCL staff members only. Please consult your line manager or department head to ensure availability to fulfil the role.

Person specification

Criteria	Essential or Desirable
Qualifications, experience and knowledge	
A PhD in a relevant subject area or equivalent experience	Essential
A high level of experience of peer-reviewing for other scientific journals	Essential
Extensive research experience in a relevant subject area and a broad interest in environment-related research	Essential
Demonstrable scientific editorial experience at a Senior, Deputy, or Executive Editor level, at an online or an open access journal	Desirable
Extensive knowledge of current important and impactful topics to inform targeted commissioning of review articles	Desirable
Experience of following <i>Best Practice Guidelines for Journal Editors</i> as set out by the Committee On Publication Ethics (https://publicationethics.org/guidance/guideline/short-guide-ethical-editing-new-editors)	Desirable
Skills and abilities	
Excellent level of literacy and analytical skills to write editorial papers that encompass the journals aims and scope	Essential
Ability to make appropriate publication decisions and justify actions	Essential
Skills necessary to educate and delegate editorial responsibilities to other Deputy Editors and Editorial Board Members	Desirable
Ability to quickly grasp a working understanding of new digital systems	Desirable
Personal attributes	
Meticulous attention to detail and a conscientious approach to checking the accuracy of information, essential for publishing research	Essential
Strong organisational skills and the ability to prioritise in the face of competing demands	Essential
Ability to collaborate with others and promote interdisciplinary approaches for publications	Essential