

Postdoctoral Scholar or Researcher in Arctic Climate Intervention Research

University of California – Los Angeles

We are seeking a talented and highly motivated postdoctoral scholar or researcher to join our multidisciplinary team funded to assess whether *mixed-phase cloud thinning* (MCT) could meaningfully slow the loss of Arctic sea ice.

MCT is a proposed climate intervention that aims to cool polar regions by deliberately glaciating and thinning wintertime low-level mixed-phase clouds, thereby reducing their longwave warming effect. Despite growing interest, there is currently insufficient observationally anchored evidence to determine whether MCT has enough potential to warrant further research. This project aims to bound the potential of MCT to slow the loss of Arctic sea ice —using observational constraints from satellite data and an ensemble of climate model simulations—so that the approach can be responsibly advanced or deprioritized.

Your Role

As a core member of our project team, you will:

- Quantify Arctic sea-ice response to imposed regional cooling, using targeted simulations with the Community Earth System Model (CESM)
- Design and analyze ensembles of idealized model experiments that emulate MCT forcing applied in specific Arctic regions and seasons
- Work closely with collaborators analyzing active-satellite observations that constrain the magnitude and spatial distribution of MCT-relevant cloud radiative effects
- Co-supervise and mentor graduate and undergraduate researchers
- Communicate results clearly in peer-reviewed publications and presentations

We Are Looking For:

- A Ph.D. in atmospheric science, meteorology, physics, engineering, or a related field (by appointment start date)
- Experience using global climate models, preferably the Community Earth System Model (CESM)
- Experience analyzing large climate-model datasets
- Demonstrated quantitative, programming (Python, MATLAB, or similar), and scientific writing skills
- Strong oral communication skills and the ability to work collaboratively in a team
- Desired but optional: expertise in (Arctic) climate dynamics, in sea ice dynamics, and/or in interactions between aerosols, radiation, and clouds

We particularly encourage applications from individuals with lived or scholarly connections to Arctic regions and communities.

Research Environment

You will be part of Prof. Jasper Kok's Aerosol-Climate Interactions group at UCLA (see <http://jasperfkok.com>), which is deliberate about providing a supportive environment for students, postdocs, and researchers of all backgrounds. We value diverse perspectives and actively engage with UCLA's Center for Diverse Leadership in Science. You will also collaborate with and receive mentorship from the rest of the team at UCLA (Prof. Yue Dong), the Scripps Institute of Oceanography (Profs. Ian Eisenman and Amato Evan), and the University of Maryland (Dr. Lauren Zamora).

Position details:

- Location: UCLA
- Salary: Competitive and experience-based, in the range of \$67k to \$76k per year
- Benefits: Medical, dental and vision coverage.
- Eligibility: U.S. citizenship or residency not required
- Appointment: two-year initial appointment, renewable based on performance and funding availability.
- Start date: preferably winter or early spring 2026.

Application Process:

Please submit the following documents in a single PDF to Prof. Jasper Kok (jfkok@ucla.edu), using the email subject line "postdoc application".

1. Cover letter describing how your research interests and relevant experience align with the position requirements and why you are interested in the position
2. Curriculum vitae
3. Names and contact information for at least three references. References will be contacted only for shortlisted candidates.
4. Graduate transcripts (if within two years from PhD completion)
5. A brief (≤ 1 page) summary of recent and ongoing research

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis beginning January 20th, 2026, until the position is filled; only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

The University of California is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age or protected veteran status. For the complete University of California nondiscrimination and affirmative action policy please follow this link: <http://policy.ucop.edu/doc/4000376/NondiscrimAffirmAct>.