



Statistician: Specialising in Animal and Plant Health Applications, Biomathematics & Statistics Scotland (BioSS)

**Salary from £31,365 per annum
Permanent**

We are seeking candidates to join a substantial team of BioSS statisticians and mathematical modellers to further develop our existing strengths in the areas of animal and plant health. The post-holder will work with the Scottish Government's Centre of Expertise on the epidemiology of animal diseases in Scotland, EPIC (<https://www.epicscotland.org/>) and build on opportunities for collaborative projects within the recently created Scottish Plant Health Centre of Expertise (<https://www.planthealthcentre.scot/>).

BioSS has an international reputation for methodological development in statistics, mathematical modelling and bioinformatics. We offer a stimulating working environment, with over 40 staff and students at four locations, collaborating on applications in plant science, animal health & welfare, ecology & environmental science, and nutrition & human health.

The post, based in Edinburgh, represents an excellent opportunity for an applied statistician interested in both contributing to projects across a stimulating mix of biological applications and further developing their methodological expertise. In addition to working closely with colleagues in BioSS, the post-holder will work with and grow our extensive collaborative network of statisticians, mathematicians and other quantitative experts working in plant and animal health.

The purpose and responsibilities of this post are:

- Provision of statistical expertise to collaborative research projects in the fields of animal health and plant health.
- Delivery of the quantitative elements of collaborative projects within the EPIC Centre of Expertise.
- Statistical input into development, tendering and delivery of Plant Health Centre projects.
- Development of a portfolio of personal research in applied statistics or at the interface between statistics, mathematical modelling and bioinformatics, motivated by quantitative problems encountered in collaborative projects.
- Contributing to the development and delivery of BioSS training courses for scientists.
- Contributing to delivery of BioSS consultancy and research projects.

Grade and starting salary

This post will be offered at Hutton Grade D (statistician, salary range £31,365 - £38,250).

Knowledge, Skills and Experience

Essential

- Either a PhD in statistics or a related discipline, or an MSc plus two years' relevant work experience.
- Experience of collaborative working at the interface between statistics and biological sciences; experience in the analysis of varied data types.
- Experience in the development and implementation of modern statistical methods evidenced through co-authored scientific papers.
- Evidence of ability to interact positively, effectively and confidently with collaborators in formal and informal situations.
- Ability to work independently.
- Evidence of enthusiasm for seeking funding.
- Enthusiastic about development and application of statistical methods.
- Strong general skills, covering areas of statistics relevant to BioSS, for example: experimental design, repeated measures, mixed models, sampling theory, generalised linear models; computationally intensive methods.
- Good programming ability in statistical packages such as GenStat or R.
- Good written communicator; willingness and ability to give spoken presentations presenting technical methods and results to non-quantitative audiences.

Desirable

- Track record of research and/or collaboration evidenced by scientific papers, preferably in a field relevant to Animal or Plant Health.
- Evidence of ability to manage and motivate staff.
- Evidence of experience in seeking funding.

Duration and location

- This is a permanent appointment.
- This position will be based within the BioSS Group based at the University of Edinburgh.
- All individuals wishing to work within the UK must be entitled to do so before they can be employed.

How to apply for this post

Applications for this post should be made through the recruitment pages of BioSS's parent organisation, the James Hutton Institute:

www.hutton.ac.uk/careers

The application process involves creating an account and uploading personal details along with:

- a CV, including as a minimum your education and employment history plus your relevant scientific achievements;
- names and addresses of three referees, one of whom must be your current employer;

- a short explanation of why you consider yourself suitable for this post, including a description of your current and planned research activities.

The closing date for applications will be 5pm GMT Thursday 13th June 2019; the interview date is currently scheduled for Monday 24th June 2019. Candidates selected for interview will be informed by Monday 17th June 2019.

Potential applicants may contact Dr Iain McKendrick (iain.mckendrick@bioss.ac.uk, tel +44 (0) 131 650 4894) in confidence to discuss the post.

BioSS has been awarded IIP Gold Status and is formally part of The James Hutton Institute, a Scottish charity No. SC041796 and an equal opportunities employer.

