Biomathematics & Statistics Scotland (BioSS) and the University of Edinburgh School of Mathematics (SoM) seek an applied statistician with a strong methodological background for a joint post to pursue a portfolio of statistical research motivated by collaborations on emerging problems in biological, environmental, agricultural and/or socio-economic science.

**Job purpose, principal duties and responsibilities**

- To pursue research of international standing in statistics motivated by science relevant to the portfolio of rural, biological and environmental work in research institutes funded by the Scottish Government.
- Lead research, including developing the BioSS Statistical Methodology Research Theme with 10 contributing staff.
- Initiate, apply for, and see through to completion, significant projects and grant proposals in collaboration with other statisticians and/or research scientists.
- Promote and lead knowledge transfer activities, including collaborations with scientists in Scottish Government funded research organisations and Schools and Centres within the University of Edinburgh.
- Contribute to the development and delivery of teaching at all levels, including e-learning and online learning, support students and supervise graduate students.

The post will further involve undertaking appropriate levels of administrative and developmental activities within both organisations.

**Biomathematics & Statistics Scotland (BioSS) has an international reputation for methodological development in statistics, mathematical modelling and bioinformatics. BioSS offers a stimulating working environment, with over 30 staff at four locations, collaborating on applications in plant science, animal health & welfare, ecology & environmental science, and nutrition & human health. Research currently undertaken within the Statistical Methodology research theme includes spatio-temporal modelling, compositional analysis, penalised likelihood, as well as more general aspects of inference and computation. BioSS is one of the Main Research Providers to the Scottish Government's Rural and Environment Science and Analytical Services Division (RESAS) delivering a portfolio of research in collaboration with scientists at James Hutton Institute which BioSS is formally a part of, Moredun Research Institute, Scotland's Rural College and Rowett Institute of Nutrition and Health and Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. In addition, BioSS undertakes work for a wide variety of funders in the public and private sectors, either independently of in collaboration with scientists from other scientific organisations.**

**The University of Edinburgh** is ranked as one of the foremost universities in the world. Research in statistics within the School of Mathematics (SoM) includes Bayesian inference, computer-intensive methods, automated pattern recognition, sampling and resampling and
multivariate analysis, with applications in forensic science, the mathematical and statistical evaluation of evidence, the earth sciences, biology, and ecology. SoM is currently strengthening its statistical capability through recruitment to the Thomas Bayes Chair of Statistics plus an additional lectureship. There are particular strengths in areas cogent to statistics and a wide variety of activities and opportunities for interdisciplinary research in the College of Science and Engineering (including Schools of Informatics, Geosciences, and Biological Sciences) and the College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine.

**Contractual arrangements**
The post-holder will have separate, but mutually dependent, contracts with each employing organisation.

The post will be funded 65% through BioSS and 35% through UoE, comprising:
- **Matters unique to BioSS**
  20%, including leadership of BioSS research undertaken within its Statistical Methodology research theme;
- **Matters unique to the School of Mathematics**
  15%, principally full delivery of two lecture courses or equivalent;
- **Matters in common**
  65%, including statistical research, statistical collaboration with scientists, and securing, managing and undertaking externally funded contracts with a major statistical component.

The BioSS post will be graded at Hutton 8 (Principal) level with starting salary in the interval £31,200-£35,100 (corresponding to a 100% FTE figures of £48,000-£54,000).

The UoE post will be graded at UE09 level with starting salary in the interval £17,060-£19,194 (corresponding to a 100% FTE figures of £48,743-£54,841).

**Qualifications & Experience**

**The ideal candidate for this post will have:**
- a very strong statistical/mathematical background;
- a research track record of international standing including a substantial publication record, with evidence of methodological development to solve problems arising in scientific research;
- evidence of research leadership, including project initiation, a track record in securing funding for research and achievement of stated milestones and deliverables;
- evidence of ability to plan, prepare and deliver effective University level teaching;
- excellent communication and interpersonal skills;
- good computing skills and an ability to develop methods for inference in computationally intensive settings;
- enthusiasm for collaborating with biological scientists.

**Knowledge, Skills and Experience**

**Essential**
- PhD in a quantitative discipline with substantial statistical and computational components.
- Experience of the development of statistical methodology to help address important scientific issues.
- Project initiation and leadership.
• Demonstrable record of methodological research in a relevant area.
• Good programming ability, both in statistics packages and source code.
• Broad understanding of data types and quantitative issues relevant to research in the Scottish Government’s main research providers: also, evidence of engagement in the application of modern statistical methods to address scientific problems.
• Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
• A research track record of international standing, including dissemination of research results through high quality publications and presentations at workshops and conferences.
• Evidence of research leadership, including a track record in securing funding for research.
• Commitment to excellence in teaching.
• Evidence of excellence in teaching.
• Evidence of leadership and innovation in teaching, and of the ability to participate in e-learning and online learning activities.
• Demonstrable commitment to participating fully in organisational / academic affairs, including collaborative working.

Desirable
• Experience of analysing similar data types to those encountered in Scottish Government’s main research providers. Evidence of substantial collaborations with scientists from relevant research communities.

How to apply for this post
Applications are invited for this post by CV and covering letter, to include:
• education and employment history;
• 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 and teaching activities.

Please send applications by email to applications@bioss.ac.uk citing Ref: BioSS/2/14.

Closing date: Friday 28 November 2014;
Interview date: Monday 15 December 2014.

Candidates selected for interview will be informed by Monday 8 December 2014.

Potential applicants may contact Professor Glenn Marion (glenn.marion@bioss.ac.uk, tel +44 (0) 131 650 4898) and Professor Colin Aitken (c.g.q.aitken@ed.ac.uk, tel +44 (0) 131 650 4877) in confidence to discuss the post.

BioSS is formally part of the James Hutton Institute, a Scottish charity No. SC041796 and an equal opportunities employer.