

Senior Statistician for Plant and Crop Sciences

Hutton band E – Senior Postdoctoral

Permanent

Salary £38,442



BioSS seeks a motivated and innovative quantitative scientist to work in the critical and expanding application area of Plant and Crop Sciences. The post represents an excellent long-term career opportunity for a suitably qualified statistician or quantitative scientist, offering a stimulating mix of work including: collaboration with plant and crop scientists at leading UK research institutions; interactions with other quantitative experts within and beyond BioSS; a generous time allocation within which to develop your own area of quantitative methodological research; and the opportunity to develop your career in BioSS as we grow our strengths as a centre of quantitative applied research and consultancy. BioSS is eligible to apply for UKRI funding, and we will be keen for the successful applicant to contribute to the development, delivery and leadership of proposals as we seek to grow our portfolio of such projects.

BioSS is a member of the SEFARI (Scottish Environment, Food and Agriculture Research Institutes) collective (<https://sefari.scot/>), and offers a stimulating working environment, with over 40 staff and students at four locations, collaborating on applications in plant & crop science, animal health & welfare, environmental science & ecology, and nutrition & human health.

This position will be based at the Invergowrie site of the James Hutton Institute, near Dundee. We offer extensive opportunities to develop collaborations with scientists in both the research institute and university sectors.



We are an equal opportunity employer. We celebrate diversity and are committed to creating an inclusive environment for all employees; we encourage applications from underrepresented groups in STEM, particularly women, BAME and LGBTQ+. We encourage flexible working and are happy to discuss options at interview stage.

Purpose of the post

- Delivery of collaborative research and statistical consultancy in the application area of plant and crop science across BioSS, with particular focus on the needs of the James Hutton Institute.
- Development of a portfolio of personal research in applied statistics or bioinformatics motivated by quantitative problems encountered in collaborative projects.
- Generating additional income for BioSS by supporting and leading applications for funding and contributing to the resulting projects.

Main responsibilities of post

- Contribute quantitative expertise to collaborative research projects across BioSS, focussed on (but not limited to) plant and crop science activities at the James Hutton Institute.

- Deliver research on applied statistical or bioinformatics methods with clear relevance to the Scottish Government funded Strategic Research Programme.
- Take responsibility for scientific relationship with specific James Hutton Institute Departments and Science Groups, building strong collaborative links both as an individual and in support of others in BioSS; showing leadership in establishing new links and new areas of collaboration.
- Lead applications for funding, including calls from UKRI, and contribute to management and delivery of resulting projects as appropriate.
- Represent BioSS externally at meetings with stakeholders from scientific and non-scientific backgrounds.
- Extend collaborative links with government agencies, NGOs, universities, research institutes and commercial organisations.
- Contribute to the development and delivery of BioSS training courses for scientists.

Grade, starting salary and duration

- This post will be offered at Hutton Grade E (senior statistician, salary £38,442).
- This is a permanent appointment.

Knowledge, skills and experience

Essential

- A PhD in statistics or another very closely related discipline, or an MSc with commensurate post-qualification development and work experience.
- Experience of development and use of modern quantitative methods applied to real-world examples. Specific examples of desirable fields are given below.
- A strong track record of research and/or collaboration evidenced by scientific journal and conference papers in a methodological field relevant to plant and crop science; experience in statistical genetics would be particularly welcome.
- Evidence of ability to initiate, manage and maintain scientific collaborations.
- The ability to work independently.
- Evidence of ability to lead projects and to manage people.
- Enthusiasm for development and application of quantitative methods, and for collaborating with applied scientists in a range of scientific areas.
- Strong general statistical skills, including an understanding of relevant areas such as: experimental design, mixed models, generalised linear models, generalised additive models.
- Excellent statistical programming ability in R or another high-level statistical or mathematical programming platform.
- Evidence of good written communication.

- Ability to give effective spoken presentations, to both quantitative and wider scientific audiences.

Desirable

- Different skills sets would fit the remit of the post, any of which would be desirable. For example, experience in:
 - o statistical genetics relevant to plant and crop genetics and breeding, such as linkage analysis, QTL mapping, genome-wide association studies or genomic prediction;
 - o use of empirical spatial or spatio-temporal statistical models;
 - o sequence analysis, genomics and genome assembly;
 - o phylogenetics;
 - o haplotype construction from next generation sequencing data, especially for polyploids.
- Experience of communicating with government and commercial clients.
- Experience of developing funding applications.

How to apply for this post

Applications for this post (Ref: BioSS-06 21) 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 is the 27th April 2021; the interview date will be in the week commencing the 3rd May.

Potential applicants may contact Dr Iain McKendrick (iain.mckendrick@bioss.ac.uk) to discuss this position.

We will not consider the use of 3rd party recruitment agencies for the sourcing of candidates for this position.

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



The James Hutton Institute is a: Stonewall Diversity Champion; Athena SWAN Bronze Status Holder; Disability Confident Committed Employer and a Living Wage Employer.