



**Job Reference Number:** UOS007612

**Job Title:** Research Associate

**Contract Type:** Fixed Term

**Faculty:** Faculty of Science

**Department:** School of Mathematics and Statistics

**Salary:** Grade 7:  
£28,972 to £36,661 per annum depending on experience. Potential to progress to £40,046 per annum through sustained exceptional contribution.

**Closing Date:** 12th December 2013

### **Summary:**

The selection of the BIOMASS mission as the 7th European Space Agency Earth Explorer mission opens a new era in measuring the properties and changes in the Earth's forests. This is an exciting opportunity to contribute to the preparatory science programme for BIOMASS in three areas: (a) using existing and new spaceborne datasets to develop first estimates of global forest mortality based on spatial distribution of biomass; (b) exploiting Sentinel-1 data to estimate tropical deforestation and conversion to plantations, in concert with the facility for Climate and Environmental Monitoring from Space at Harwell and other UK teams; (c) collaborating with the world-leading UK expertise in tropical forest ecology and measurement to help establish the in situ and airborne calibration and validation strategy for BIOMASS. This will also involve work with other members of the international BIOMASS science team as the programme develops. The research will be carried out within the National Centre for Earth Observation, with funding also from the UK Space Agency, and will be based in the School of Mathematics & Statistics at the University of Sheffield with Professor Shaun Quegan as supervisor.

The appointee must have a PhD in a scientific, mathematical or computational field or equivalent experience; experience in handling large scale environmental datasets, including data from remote sensing satellites would be a great advantage; background knowledge in ecology would be helpful but not essential.

The post is fixed term for 3 years, available on a full time basis.

You can view the supporting documentation by clicking on [About the Job](#) and [About the University](#) located near the top of your screen.