Post-Doctoral Associate

The Department of Geographical Sciences at the University of Maryland, College Park is a leader in integrated research on the coupled human and physical dimensions of global change, remote sensing, and Geospatial Information Science. The Department of Geographical Sciences is seeking applicants for a postdoctoral research position to work in Dr. Laura Duncanson’s research group, focusing on lidar remote sensing for forest ecology. The research project is funded by a new NSF grant which seeks to develop an Institute for Biodiversity Forecasting. This project brings together ecologists, environmental engineers, data scientists, and conservation stakeholders to determine optimal ways to integrate novel data sources to make near term forecasts for biodiversity at a global scale by addressing changes in (1) species’ abundance and geographic distribution, (2) community structure, and (3) ecosystem function. This position will focus primarily on the structural aspects of the wider project, using NASA’s GEDI data to explore relationships between forest structure and biodiversity at a global scale.

The position will involve the processing and interpretation of NASA GEDI waveform lidar products, as well as exploration of other data streams that may aid in linking forest structure and function (e.g. Landsat, ICESat-2, OCO). This will be a minimum two-year position, and involve working toward a larger proposal with the wider project team.

Minimum Qualifications and Required Skills:
- Ph.D. in geographical sciences or a related field.
- An extensive background in remote sensing, and preferably lidar remote sensing.

Preferences:
- A quantitative background and experience handling big data (parallel processing, etc.).
- While a background in ecology is not required, an interest in ecological theory or demonstration of past interdisciplinary work would be highly beneficial as the successful candidate will be working with a group of scientists from a wide range of backgrounds.

Applications should include a personal statement of background and experience relevant to the position, a signed, dated Resume/Curriculum Vitae, and names and addresses (including e-mail) of 3 references.

For best consideration applications should be submitted no later than December 20, 2019 but the search will continue until a suitable candidate is appointed. To apply go to: https://ejobs.umd.edu/postings/75360. Applications from women and minorities are particularly sought. The University of Maryland is an Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action Employer.

For more information about the advertised position please email Laura Duncanson at lduncans@umd.edu. Further information on departmental research programs can be found at http://www.geog.umd.edu.