University of Reading

Human Resources

Job Description

Title	Details
Job title	Post-Doctoral Research Associate
Department/Unit	Geography/SAGES
Job Type	Full-time, fixed term for 12 Months (with possibility for 6-month extension)
Grade	Grade 6
Accountable to	Dr Ben Coles
Accountable for	N/A
Vacancy reference	SRF54670

Purpose

This PDRA in Remote Sensing and Earth Observation will work on the Amazon+10 Participatory Monitoring of Traditional Territories of the Amazon (PMTTA) project. They will be part of an international, interdisciplinary team of social scientists and scientists developing a mobile, digital platform that records and catalogues socio-biodiversity through the co-creation of local, traditional and indigenous knowledge(s). The post-holder will be responsible for conducting participatory remote sensing, and for integrating remote-sensing with other geo-spatial and social-biodiversity data collected within the project. They will also be responsible for data collation and management, and for interfacing with UKRI data repositories. The post-holder will be based in Reading but will be expected to conduct field work and attend periodic team meetings in Brazil.

Team Structure

The PDRA will be based at the University of Reading. They collaborate with project researchers involved in the Amazon+10 Participatory Monitoring of Traditional Territories of the Amazon (PMTTA) project chiefly at the University of Reading but will expected to collaborate with other members of the PMTTA team (ie. Federal University of Para).

Main duties and responsibilities

1. To conduct community participatory remote sensing data collection
2. To integrate community-based remote sensing data with other remotely sensed data
3. To conduct comparative remote sensing analysis of traditional community and non-community land-use/land-cover
4. To participate in collection, evaluation and interpretation of the research data, specifically leading on Remote Sensing analysis

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5. To provide research support in relation to the preparation of figures, liaison with Brazilian counter parts and UKRI data centres, inputs to publications, as well as to lead on specific peer-revied publications and scientific dissemination activities.
6. To write reports for submission to research sponsors as requested.
7. To liaise with the wider project team to ensure information is disseminated effectively and at the appropriate time to other project members and relevant stakeholders.

Supervision received

Dr Ben Coles (line management, mentoring and professional development); Professor Nirvia Ravena (mentoring and project management)

Supervision given

N/A

Contact

Principle Investigator (Dr Ben Coles, University of Reading).

The postholder will be expected to work with a team of early career PDRAs, primarily based at Reading University, and Federal University of Para (Brazil).

Terms and conditions

The post is based at Reading University and is full time. The percentage of time spent on the project: 100%.

The post is fixed term, initially for 12 months with the potential for extension subject to funding.

This document outlines the duties required for the time being of the post to indicate the level of responsibility. It is not a comprehensive or exhaustive list and the line manager may vary duties from time to time which do not change the general character of the job or the level of responsibility entailed.

Date assessed: 16th October 2026

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Person Specification

Job Title	School/Department
Post-Doctoral Research Associate	**SAGES/ Geography**

Which stage these Criteria be assessed
A = Application
I = Interview
P = Presentation/Pre task/Other

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Skills Required	• Practical experience in accessing and handling large Remotely Sensed data sets appropriate for land use/land cover evaluation and classification (A, I) • Ability to use own initiative and plan, manage and prioritise workload effectively to meet varied and strict project delivery deadlines (A, I) • Excellent communication skills: written, verbal and presenting information to others (A, I) • Ability to analyse data and generate high quality figures and tables using appropriate software (A) • Self-motivated and highly organised (A,I) • team player, able to build effective working relationships with others (A, I)	
Attainment .	• A PhD (or near completion) in Geography**,** Environmental Science or closely related discipline by the start date of the appointment (A) • Evidence of scientific publication and dissemination (A)	
Knowledge	• Understanding of biodiversity/social-biodiversity data (A, I) • Broad up-to-date knowledge of remote sensing applications in tropical forests (A, I)	• Working knowledge social-science methodologies (i.e. ethnography, qualitative methods, etc). (A, I)

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	• Familiarity with relevant data sources for remotely sensed data in Brazilian Amazon (A, I) • Working knowledge of Portuguese (A, I)	
Relevant Experience	• Practical experience conducting land-use/land-cover remote sensing surveys (A, I) • Doctoral or post-doctoral experience conducting remote sensing and geo-spatial analysis (A,I) • Previous experience working with social science data and/or methods (A,I) • Previous professional experience in a research context (A, I)	
Other	• Flexibility and ability to travel as required, including overseas (I) • Willingness to work out of normal working hours, if the requirements of the project necessitate this (I)	

Completed By: Ben Coles

Date: 16th October 2026

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