Postdoc Employee - AI for Natural Capital & Biodiversity - ESPM: Ecosystems Sciences
University of California Berkeley

Job Title	Postdoc Employee - AI for Natural Capital & Biodiversity - ESPM: Ecosystems Sciences
Department	
Institution	University of California Berkeley Berkeley, California
Date Posted	Apr. 8, 2025
Application Deadline	05/31/2025
Position Start Date	Available immediately
Job Categories	Post-Doc
Academic Field(s)	Environmental Sciences/Ecology/Forestry Computer/Information Sciences Biology - General Mathematics/Applied Mathematics
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Job Description	

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Position overview

Position title: Postdoc Employee
Salary range:

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The UC academic salary scales set the minimum pay determined by rank and step at appointment. See the following table(s) for the current salary scale(s) for this position https://www.ucop.edu/academic-personnel-programs/_files/2024-25/oct-2024-scales/t23.pdf. A reasonable estimate for this position is $66,737 - $74,425.

Percent time: 100

Anticipated start: Spring 2025

Position duration: 2 years with the possibility of extension based on performance and availability of funding.

Application Window
Open date: December 23, 2024

Next review date: Wednesday, Apr 30, 2025 at 11:59pm (Pacific Time)
Apply by this date to ensure full consideration by the committee.

Final date: Saturday, May 31, 2025 at 11:59pm (Pacific Time)
Applications will continue to be accepted until this date, but those received after the review date will only be considered if the position has not yet been filled.

Position description

The Potts group at UC Berkeley seeks a postdoctoral researcher in the area of natural capital and biodiversity with a specific focus on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and big data to innovate and scale action.

The interdisciplinary group utilizes qualitative and quantitative tools to solve key problems impeding action in conserving forests, restoring biodiversity, and scaling natural pathways for carbon sequestration.

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) has set ambitious goals for conserving and restoring biodiversity as well as mobilizing public and private sector action and finance to meet these goals. Coupled to this has been the emergence of mandatory (European Union's [EU] Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive [CSRD]) as well as voluntary (Taskforce on Nature Related Financial Disclosures [TNFD]) reporting regimes. In addition, a nascent but developing market has emerged for biodiversity and/or net natural positive credits. The success of these initiatives in part will rely on

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providing actionable scientific information on biodiversity and natural capital at policy and market relative spatial and temporal scales. Big data and AI including but not limited to large language models (LLM) in combination with field data and remotely sensed satellite, acoustic, camera, and genetic data have a critical role to play in driving action.

The postdoctoral researcher for this position will work to identify and develop novel data-enabled solutions to accurately and efficiently measure and report on natural capital and biodiversity to provide actionable information to track change and scale restorative actions.

Responsibilities:

- Provide domain specific research to improve scientific understanding of in the area of natural capital and biodiversity
- Interviewing relevant parties working in the space
- Collating and collecting as necessary available information and data
- Coordinating data management, quality control, and archiving
- Developing code, datasets, and applications as appropriate
- Co-mentoring at team of one 1-2 graduate students and 3-4 undergraduate researchers each year;
- Disseminating research results to the broader scientific community via peer reviewed publications, conferences, and seminars
- Preparing manuscripts for publication, as lead author.

Mentoring
The postdoctoral researcher will meet regularly with the PI and will participate in regular goal-setting and development plan activities. They would have the opportunity to participate in campus data science initiatives, faculty development, and other professional development opportunities. They would have the opportunity to guest lecture in the PI's classes and to mentor students. They would be able to use project funds to attend one USA-based conference each year.

Qualifications
Basic qualifications (required at time of application)

- PhD (or equivalent international degree) or enrolled in a PhD degree program (or equivalent international degree)

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Additional qualifications (required at time of start)

- PhD (or equivalent international degree) by the start date No more than three years of post-degree research experience by start date

Preferred qualifications

- Demonstrate a rigorous and scholarly approach to their science, with a strong track record of publication and outreach
- Be a compassionate, professional, and reliable team player who values creating and maintaining healthy relationships with partners
- Have strong communication and diplomacy skills to give and receive feedback, celebrate successes, and constructively confront challenges
- Have excellent time management and organizational skills
- Have a PhD in mathematics, bioinformatics, computer science, data science, applied mathematics, economics, environmental science, ecology or biology
- Demonstrate fluency with quantitative and/or qualitative methods most relevant to the opportunity
- Experience or interest in software design and data curation

Application Requirements

Document requirements

- Curriculum Vitae - Your most recently updated C.V.
- Cover Letter

Reference requirements

- 3 required (contact information only)

Apply link: https://aprecruit.berkeley.edu/JPF04735

Help contact: mdpotts@berkeley.edu

About UC Berkeley

UC Berkeley is committed to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. The excellence of the

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institution requires an environment in which the diverse community of faculty, students, and staff are welcome and included. Successful candidates will demonstrate knowledge and skill related to ensuring equity and inclusion in the activities of their academic position (e.g., teaching, research, and service, as applicable).

The University of California, Berkeley is an Equal Opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age, or protected veteran status.

Please refer to the University of California's Affirmative Action and Nondiscrimination in Employment Policy and the University of California's Anti-Discrimination Policy.

In searches when letters of reference are required all letters will be treated as confidential per University of California policy and California state law. Please refer potential referees, including when letters are provided via a third party (i.e., dossier service or career center), to the UC Berkeley statement of confidentiality prior to submitting their letter.

As a University employee, you will be required to comply with all applicable University policies and/or collective bargaining agreements, as may be amended from time to time. Federal, state, or local government directives may impose additional requirements.

As a condition of employment, the finalist will be required to disclose if they are subject to any final administrative or judicial decisions within the last seven years determining that they committed any misconduct, are currently being investigated for misconduct, left a position during an investigation for alleged misconduct, or have filed an appeal with a previous employer.

- "Misconduct" means any violation of the policies or laws governing conduct at the applicant's previous place of employment, including, but not limited to, violations of policies or laws prohibiting sexual harassment, sexual assault, or other forms of harassment, discrimination, dishonesty, or unethical conduct, as defined by the employer.
- UC Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Policy
- UC Anti-Discrimination Policy for Employees, Students and Third Parties
- APM - 035: Affirmative Action and Nondiscrimination in Employment

Job location

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Berkeley, CA

To apply, visit https://aprecruit.berkeley.edu/JPF04735

Contact Information

Please reference Academickeys in your cover letter when applying for or inquiring about this job announcement.

Contact

N/A
University of California Berkeley
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