

August 2, 2021

**PhD Position (Research Assistant) in Radar Ecology at the Biosphere Informatics Lab., Kyoto University**

The Biosphere Informatics Laboratory (Kyoto University) is seeking to enroll a PhD student to undertake his dissertation within the 7-year project “Pioneering the Discipline of Radar Aeroecology for the Global Study and Conservation of Airborne Animals” funded by JST Souhatsu/FOREST. This project aims at analyzing radar maps in order to study movements in the aerosphere (of birds, insects, and bats esp.) at regional scales. The successful candidate will work under the supervision of Prof. Christian E. Vincenot (see [www.vincenot.biz](http://www.vincenot.biz) and [www.batresearch.net](http://www.batresearch.net)). The candidate will be expected to successfully pass the entrance procedure for Kyoto University’s PhD program and will then be supported financially by a Research Assistant (RA) salary provided under this grant. Note that the Graduate School of Informatics provides a cursus in both Japanese and English languages, so Japanese proficiency is not required, although it will be seen as an asset in the recruitment for the present position.

The main research duty will consist in extracting biological information from radar data and apply them to ecological study cases. The PhD student / Research Assistant will be expected to liaise and work productively under the co-advisory of a post-doctoral researcher. Depending on the student’s background, his/her dissertation will focus on one of the following points, namely

- i. develop software and algorithms to analyze radar data,
- ii. use radar data to undertake ecological studies
- iii. develop new radar-based technologies and possible coupling with embedded systems

**Job title:** Research Assistant (and PhD candidate)

**Number of positions:** 1

**Job description:** You will pursue your PhD topic in line with the project's flexible goals. In this frame, you will have ample opportunities to propose not only new methods but also new study topics and carry them out. Interaction with other lab projects (see <http://bre.soc.i.kyoto-u.ac.jp>), although not mandatory nor expected, will be possible. As the project is 7-year long but with a midterm evaluation in the third year, efficiency, regularity and productivity are a must. In return, you can expect to boost your research profile very quickly.

To apply, you need to hold a Masters degree (or to be close to completing one) in Computer Science/Informatics, Engineering, Ecology, or related disciplines. Experience of or strong interest in active

interdisciplinary collaboration (esp. between computer science, ecology, and engineering) is highly desirable. The annual gross salary will be determined according to the rules of Kyoto. It can be expected to be on par with MEXT PhD scholarships.

**Required qualifications:** The successful candidate must meet the following qualifications.

- a Master's degree (obtained or close to completion).
- solid organizational skills.
- motivated, perseverant, creative, and demonstrate initiative and the ability to work both independently with limited supervision and collaboratively.
- basic English proficiency sufficient to communicate and write scientific reports. Additional proficiency in Japanese will be considered a major asset.
- well-versed in programming/coding and an expert of one of the following areas:
  - Ecology, Zoology (esp. Ornithology, Chiropterology, or Entomology), or other Environmental Sciences
  - AI / Data Mining / Machine Learning
  - Signal or Image Processing
  - Radar Engineering
  - Embedded Systems
  - Remote Sensing

Note that we are an equal opportunity employer in the sense that applicants will be evaluated based solely on their qualifications, experience, skills and personality, while other factors (e.g., sex, sexual orientation, race, nationality, religion) will be strictly disregarded. Hence, we do not discriminate against any groups yet do not promote Anglo-Saxon "affirmative action"-style recruitment. Handicaps and life events (e.g., childcare leave, military duties) will, however, be duly taken into consideration when assessing applicants.

**Starting date:** 1 October 2021 (preferably) or 1 April 2022

**Contract term:** Until March 31 of the first year after employment, with annual extension guaranteed for 3 years. After this term, we will further consider contract extension (e.g., in case of 4-year PhD) and even promotion to Postdoc Researcher depending on the performance and skills demonstrated by the student.

**Probation period:** None

**Working conditions:** The position will be based on Kyoto University's Yoshida Main Campus (Kyoto, Japan) for the time being. Yet, remote work part of the year might be arranged in case the selected candidate proves particularly reliable. (until 20 hours per week and 7 hours per day.)

**Salary and benefits:** To be determined in accordance with the existing employment regulations of Kyoto University. (Standard payment 1400yen)

**Social insurance:** Workers' compensation insurance

**Application and inquiry:**

Applications should be sent via email to vincenot □ i.kyoto-u.ac.jp (replace □ with @), with the subject “Souhatsu RA Job Application”. Please combine in a single PDF file

- your CV,
- a short description (max. 1 page) of experience and skills
- a short description (max. 1 page) of why you believe to be an appropriate candidate for this position (i.e. relevance to the project),
- Master's thesis,
- if the candidate has published any scientific papers, a publications list (a link to Researchgate, Google Scholar, Loop or other online similar platforms is also accepted), and
- the contact of one or two references (name, position, affiliation, email contact, and relationship with the applicant).

Inquiries should also be sent via email to vincenot □ i.kyoto-u.ac.jp (replace □ with @) with the subject “Souhatsu RA Job Inquiry”.

**Application deadline:** Open until the position is filled. Note that the position will be filled as soon as a suitable candidate is found. Hence, if you plan on applying, please make sure to send as soon as possible a short email to already notify of your intent to submit the full application package later on. After receiving the complete application, we will contact you for further material and interview, provided that we find sufficient relevance in your application.

**Others:**

Personal information that is provided in an application will not be used for any other purpose than screening for employment. They will be destroyed following selection. Smoking is prohibited in any indoor and outdoor areas of the Kyoto University campus, except for designated smoking areas.