

Recruiting an ECR as observer to the SIOS Remote Sensing Working Group

Svalbard Integrated Arctic Earth Observing System (SIOS) is a consortium of international institutions with research infrastructure in and around Svalbard. SIOS is building an integrated observing system (<https://sios-svalbard.org/ObservingSystem>) for long-term measurements addressing Earth System Science questions.

The [SIOS Remote Sensing Working Group \(RSWG\)](#) would like to engage an early career researcher (ECR) to serve as an observer member on the working group. The ECR would act as a SIOS ambassador and assist in distributing news about SIOS remote sensing activities in ECR and other administrative and scientific networks. The selected ECR observer is expected to also contribute scientifically to WG activities. This opportunity provides a platform for ECRs to become involved in an international organisation and develop important organisational skills.

Eligibility criteria:

- Ph.D. student or Postdoc fellow/Researcher (up to 7 years past the Ph.D.) and working in a topic related to Earth Observation (EO)/Remote Sensing (RS)/Geoinformation (GI) applications in Svalbard or the Arctic
- Commitment to participate in the regular activities of RSWG for at least 1 year
- Commitment to attend the [Polar Night Week](#) (24-28 January 2022) tentatively to be held in Longyearbyen
- Affiliated to SIOS member institution¹ (Is your home institution a [SIOS member](#)?)
- Good command of English language

Responsibility:

- Actively participate in WG activities for up to 2 years
- Work closely with the [SIOS Remote Sensing Officer](#) (RSO) and the RSWG Chair on routine activities e.g. organising meetings (~1 physical and 5 virtual per year), writing draft meeting minutes, following up on WG documents etc.
- Making WG activities visible to ECR networks via email, social media, and other means
- Assisting RSWG in planning online events ([conference](#), [webinars](#), [training course](#))
- Assisting in organising the annual [remote sensing training course](#) in September 2022
- Lead a sub-project as prescribed by the RSWG and needs of the SIOS community

Benefits:

- In the first year, the ECR observer will receive travel, accommodation, and other expenses for attending the working group's physical meeting during the [Polar Night Week](#) in Longyearbyen, Svalbard. An extended stay (only during the first year) at SIOS-KC would also be considered as per requirements of SIOS-KC and interest of the candidate.
- Travel, accommodation costs, and other expenses to attend the remote sensing training course in September 2022.

¹ This opportunity is presently available to ECRs from SIOS member institutions. If we do not find a suitable candidate from a SIOS member institution in the first round, this opportunity will be open for ECRs from non-SIOS members in the second round (see the timeline of application).

- The ECR observer would get a chance to learn the working style of an international organisation and provide an opportunity to expand their network while working with WG members and during PNW.

Please note that the travel and accommodation costs to attend the PNW and the training course during the first year is the only financial support available for the ECR. This is a non-salaried position.

Duration:

The total duration of the engagement of ECR is up to 2 (1+1) years.

- The first year runs from 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021.
- In the second year (1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022), the ECR observer is encouraged to stay engaged in RSWG without any funding support from SIOS.
- After two years, the candidate may continue contributing to working group voluntarily.

How to apply?

If you are interested in joining the RSWG fill out this [online application form](#)*. You will need to upload your 2-page CV and 1-page statement of interest as two separate PDF files within the form.

Your statement of interest must focus on

- (1) your research background,
- (2) experience in working with ECR networks e.g. APECS
- (3) why are you interested in becoming the ECR observer on RSWG,
- (4) how would you contribute to RSWG activities,
- (5) how will this opportunity be beneficial for your research career.

* Please note that you must register to the SIOS account if you are using the SIOS online form for the first time. New accounts are approved by SIOS-KC during office hours (8:00-16:00 CEST Mon-Fri). Therefore, we recommend registering for an account well before the application deadline. If you encounter any problems or need more information, please contact remotesensing@sios-svalbard.org

Selection:

The selection procedure will be carried out by RSWG members. Evaluation will be based on your CV and statement of interest.

Timeline of application:

First round: SIOS members

Application open: 1 July 2021

Closing 1st round: 15 July 2021

Second round: SIOS members plus non-SIOS members

Application open: 15 July 2021

Closing 2nd round: 31 July 2021

Selection phase: 31 July to 20 August 2020

Announcement of Results: tentatively 30 August 2020

Joining of the ECR observer: First week of September 2020

Reflection from the first ECR observer: William Harcourt

I have worked on the SIOS RSWG for 12 months and it's been a thrill. Firstly, I worked very closely with the SIOS Remote Sensing Officer, Shridhar Jawak, who worked tirelessly during my tenure to ensure I was given as many opportunities to participate in SIOS activities as possible. This unwavering support was assisted by the excellent team of international RSWG members, who were always willing to listen to my views and thoughts on projects the working group were undertaking. Taken together, my integration into the working group created a stimulating environment within which I was able to engage in scientific discussions that have shaped the working group activities over the last 12 months.

My participation in several SIOS activities and events, including the SIOS Online Conference, the SIOS Polar Night Week and the regular RSWG meetings, has enabled me to enhance several transferable skills. At the SIOS Online Conference, I was responsible for chairing a special ECR session as well as provided the creative freedom to organise social events for the participants (which was a lot of fun to organise!). At the Polar Night Week, I similarly helped run workshops and presented findings from a RSWG-led survey, bolstering my ability to present to an international audience. My key role was to participate in RSWG meetings, which were very interesting to engage with as it enabled me to recognise the hard work undertaken by SIOS to create a successful regional observing system.

Through this role I have also gained tangible benefits. The RSWG tasked me to review the availability of satellite data over Svalbard, which will be published in the SIOS special issue in the journal Remote Sensing. There have also been opportunities to contribute to several other publishable projects within the working group. Finally, the opportunity to understand the inner workings of an international consortium of researchers has been eye-opening and an experience I will take forward into my future career. If you are interested in Svalbard science, developing a regional observing system and gaining experience in conducting research at an international level then this is an opportunity not to be missed!

If you would like to know more about my experience then feel free to email me (wdh1@st-andrews.ac.uk).