Python Retreat 5th – 8th November 2018, Inver Lodge Ballater

SAGES and SAGES Graduate School will be hosting a Python retreat for those who never get the opportunity to really focus on learning a new language. This will not be a taught course but will be a space in which to focus on the problem of starting to use Python with a group working on the same problem.

We assume that all participants will have experience in at least one programming language, eg MatLab or R (experience in Python does not exclude you though).

There will be pre-requisite online material and it will be expected that all participants will complete these courses on a laptop that they can bring to the retreat (or at least have the same set up on a laptop as is used in the online courses).

The retreat will be structured as follows:

Day 1: Sessions 1 and 2: Arrivals

Sessions 3 and 4: Introductions and group session on producing high quality location maps.

After dinner: Opportunity for students to present their work to the group

Day 2 – 3: Everyone will be paired up with to create pairs of contrasting abilities. Within these pairs we will work individually on our own datasets to progress analysis or produce publication quality figures. It is expected that the pairs will be each others first port of call for help but that problems can be informally discussed with the group. At the end of each session there will be an opportunity for formal discussion of problems/discoveries.

Day 4: Sessions 1 and 2: Present code to group, discuss the methods chosen and the problems encountered. If suitable this code can be shared with the group allowing each person to collate a number of examples of processing/presentation techniques for geoscience data.

There are 17 spaces available (people will be expected to share rooms) and these will be allocated based on an application (250 word paragraph about your coding experience and how you would benefit from this retreat). Thanks to funding from the graduate school five of the places will be reserved for Graduate School students.

The retreat will cost £60 per person (food is included but travel costs are not). It is expected that all attendees will help to prepare at least one meal (you will be given a budget).

Please send any questions or applications to marie.porter@sams.ac.uk by **8th July 2018**