Student Placement 2020/2021
Farmland Wildlife Conservation Research & Geographic Information Science

Background
The Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust is an independent wildlife conservation charity. Its 60 scientists carry out research into game, associated species and habitats, from its HQ at Fordingbridge, Hampshire and at out-stations throughout the country. The Trust’s main areas of interest encompass farmland, moorland, woodland and river conservation management for game and other wildlife.

The Placement
In 2020/2021 we have one sandwich student placement available, based at Fordingbridge. The student will be working directly under Dr Francis Buner, senior conservation scientist, coordinator of PARTRIDGE, a cross-nation EU NSR Interreg project (http://northsearegion.eu/partridge/). PARTRIDGE demonstrates how to recover farmland biodiversity at 10 demo sites across the North Sea region, collaborating with farmers and many other rural stakeholders. PARTRIDGE actively influences the UK’s and the EU’s agri-policy. You will be monitoring different farmland biodiversity indicators (the Grey partridge together with other gamebirds, hares, songbirds and habitats) and ecosystem services (game bags, pollination) at two Grey partridge recovery demonstration sites, assist with data entry and data analysis (mainly using ArcGIS and Excel), help with a range of different transnational communication activities and project administration tasks, and be part of our international team. For the GIS-related tasks, you will work with the Trust’s GIS department. The GIS team is actively involved in all aspects of spatial data analysis within the Trust. In addition, this team is responsible for running the Partridge Count Scheme, which forms the basis of the Trust’s work, encouraging farmers across the country to conserve grey partridges.

Students should be proficient in Microsoft office software (Word, Excel, etc.). In-depth training will be given in GIS software (ArcGIS). Experience with this software, as well as statistical analysis or computer programming, would be an advantage, as are good field skills in ornithology and general wildlife. Successful candidates will be good communicators as well as having excellent English writing skills. Further training on all skills required for this placement will be given during the placement year. The successful candidate will be expected to work to a high standard, with attention to detail very important. A driving licence is necessary for fieldwork. The student will be expected to work flexible hours when necessary (including weekends in rare cases), drive to study sites on a regular basis and be happy to travel to various project sites in Europe, together with UK colleagues.

Benefits of the Placement
We provide accommodation at Fordingbridge, a small remuneration package (currently £100 per week) plus expenses and a vehicle where required for work. This is a great opportunity for students who wish to acquire a variety of skills that are increasingly desirable in the field of conservation and wildlife management. Students will be exposed to a wide variety of projects, agri-environmental issues and science. This placement would suit someone who wishes to pursue a career in field-based conservation biology, providing GIS and statistical analysis skills necessary for a post-graduate education.

To Apply
To apply please send a cv and letter explaining why you are interested in the placement and arrange to have your tutor send a reference to the contact below by the 10th January 2020. Interviews will be held in January/February 2020.

Contact
Dr Julie Ewald
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