

Student Placement 2018/2019

Geographic Information Science & Farmland Wildlife Conservation Research

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 management for game and other wildlife.

The Placement

In 2018/2019 we have one sandwich student placement available, based at Fordingbridge, with fieldwork throughout southern England. The placement will be split between the Trust's GIS and Grey Partridge ecology teams. The GIS team is an active team 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. The team working on Grey Partridge conservation research will be supervised by Dr Francis Buner and will focus on monitoring different farmland biodiversity indicators (the Grey partridge together with other gamebirds, hares, songbirds and habitats) and ecosystem services (game bags, pollination) in two Grey partridge recovery demonstration areas that are part of a cross-nation EU NSR Interreg project called PARTRIDGE (<http://northsearegion.eu/partridge/>).

The successful candidate will assist with GIS data entry and analysis in support of work associated with Grey partridge and the PARTRIDGE project. They will be involved in wildlife and habitat monitoring on lowland farmland, field data entry and the analysis of monitoring data.

Students should be proficient in Microsoft office software (Word, Excel, etc.). 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 would good field skills in ornithology and wildlife in general. The successful candidate will be expected to work to a high standard, with attention to detail being very important. A driving licence is necessary for fieldwork. The student will be expected to work flexible hours when necessary and drive to the study sites on a regular basis.

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 3rd January 2018.

Contact

Dr Julie Ewald
Head of Geographic Information Science
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Laurie Campbell



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