

Student Placement in 2018/2019

Uplands Research Unit

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

We seek two students each year, based at our uplands research centre in Northern England. Our Upper Teesdale outstation is a base for research work on many aspects of upland ecology, with the primary focus being the conservation and management of grouse populations; their habitats and associated moorland species. Currently there are 10 staff and students based from our office in the grounds of Eggleston Hall near Barnard Castle.

We also conduct projects in the Scottish Highlands where you may be able to work periodically to assist with the monitoring of capercaillie, black grouse and mountain hares within forest, moorland and mountain ecosystems.

The placed students will be able to gain valuable and extensive experience working with a variety of projects operating from the base throughout northern England. The students will primarily be involved in assisting with data collection for long-term monitoring and research projects on grouse and other ground nesting birds; including grouse parasite interactions, the ecology of breeding waders and black grouse restoration.

- i) To assist with the licensed capture, handling, radio tagging and tracking of study species, mainly grouse, but also colour ringing waders
- ii) To conduct habitat and bird surveys on peatland study sites
- iii) Analyse in the laboratory, samples of strongyle worms and other parasites of red grouse

We are seeking someone with an appetite for ecological fieldwork and importantly, a full driving licence. There will be an opportunity to develop aspects of ecological interest by undertaking a personal research project with supervision from base staff. Training will be given in all aspects of data processing, analysis and report writing.

Benefits of the Placement

As well as training and work experience, we have accommodation available shared by two students, in the form of a first floor flat in the nearby village of Middleton-in-Teesdale (pubs, shops etc. four miles from the office). In addition, we offer a standard stipend of £100 per week plus living costs. There may also be opportunities to increase your work experience and earnings through seasonal one day per week release to work on neighbouring estates and through routine chores around the office of a non-academic nature. The placements will be for a year commencing at the beginning of August 2018.

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

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