

Student Placement 2019/2020

Geographic Information Science with Wetlands Research secondment

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 outstations 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 2019/2020 we have two student placements available, based at Fordingbridge, to be split across the Trust's GIS and Wetland teams. This is a unique opportunity, combining field research, mapping and statistical analytical skills.

The GIS team, headed by Dr Julie Ewald, is an active team involved in all aspects of spatial data analysis within the Trust. This team is responsible for running the Partridge Count Scheme, which forms the basis of the Trust's work on grey partridge conservation. The team also collates and analyses data from the Trust's long-running Sussex Study on the South Downs that investigates changes in the cereal ecosystem. In GIS successful candidates will assist with GIS data entry and analysis in support of various projects, especially work associated with the Grey Partridge and our national Partridge Count Scheme project.

The Secondment with the GWCT's Wetland team will involve fieldwork on the Sussex Study area, working with lapwing on arable land. It will take place from approximately March to June, during the lapwing breeding season and for those months the students will work within the Wetlands team.

Students should be proficient in Microsoft office software (Word, Excel, etc.). Training will be given in GIS software (ArcGIS) and MSAccess. Experience with this software, as well as statistical analysis or computer programming (e.g. in R), would be an advantage. The successful candidates are expected to work to a high standard, with attention to detail being very important. A full driving licence, prior to starting the placement, is required for fieldwork. Candidates must be able to work long hours in the field, often in inclement conditions, and so are expected to have suitable outdoor wear.

Benefits of the Placement

In return, accommodation will be provided on-site, at Fordingbridge, in free student accommodation, as well as a stipend of £100 per week to cover basic necessities. Each placement is a great opportunity, offering a unique insight into conservation and wildlife management. Not only will each student get involved in the day-to-day work required of the teams, they may also be engaged in a number of additional projects that arise during the year. This placement would suit someone who wishes to pursue a career in field-based ecology, 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 7th January 2019. Interviews will be held in January/February 2019.

Contact

Dr Julie Ewald
Head of Geographic Information Science
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Laurie Campbell



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