



Student Placement in 2019/2020

Upland Research Group, Upper Teesdale, North Pennines

The Research Base

Our Upper Teesdale field centre in northern England is a base for research work on many aspects of upland ecology, with the primary focus being the conservation and management of upland bird populations and their habitats. 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 Placement Position

We seek up to two undergraduate student placements/year-in-industry internships each year. The students will be able to gain valuable and extensive experience working alongside staff on 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 red and black grouse and other ground nesting birds; including grouse-parasite interactions, the ecology of breeding waders and black grouse restoration. Specifically, activities will include;

- i) Assisting with the licensed capture, handling, radio-tagging and tracking of study species, mainly grouse, but also colour ringing waders
- ii) Conducting habitat and bird surveys on heather moorland and its fringes
- iii) Analysing in the lab samples of strongyle worms and other parasites of red grouse
- iv) Measuring responses of moorland vegetation to methods of blanket bog restoration

There will be an opportunity for each student to develop their own aspects of ecological interest by undertaking a personal research project, supervised by base staff. Training will be given in all aspects of data processing, analysis and report writing.

We are seeking someone with an appetite for outdoor fieldwork and **good upland bird identification skills**. A full driving licence is essential. We have accommodation available to be shared by two students, in the form of a two-bedroom first floor flat in the nearby village of Middleton-in-Teesdale (pubs, shops etc. four miles from the office).

We offer a standard stipend of £100 per week, free accommodation, plus paid bills. 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. 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 8th March 2019. Interviews and offers will be made on a first come first served basis upon receipt of applications.

The placements will be for a year commencing at the beginning of August 2019.



For more information please contact

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