

RE: Research Assistant Position, MA/Ph.D. in Criminology, Law and Society (CLS)

The University of Florida (UF) utilizes more than 200 research, service and education centers, bureaus and institutes to create a globally-engaged, interdisciplinary, and research focused environment for its diverse faculty and student population. UF was ranked as the 8th best public college by U.S. News and World Report for 2019 and the Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law has faculty members that are distinguished in teaching and research.

Graduate Assistant Position Description

Zambia has seen a surge of international wildlife trafficking (IWT) with devastating environmental, economic, and social consequences. Wildlife Crime Prevention (WCP) was established in 2015 to fight illegal wildlife crime by working with partners, such as Zambia's Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW), to reduce illegal wildlife trafficking, strengthen prosecutions and investigations systems and raise awareness of the public of the detrimental impact of IWT in Zambia. There is a vast amount of existing research, publications, information and data, within and outside DNPW, that needs to be leveraged and translated into actionable intelligence, in order to continue to make progress, increase DNPW's successes and reduce poaching and trafficking in Zambia. UF and WCP desire to recruit a Ph.D. student in Criminology, Law and Society (CLS) as a Research Assistant for the years 2019-2021, with the possibility of extension, to focus on the prevention of ivory trafficking in Zambia. This graduate student will simultaneously earn a degree in CLS while engaging in applied conservation criminology research. Students with a MA or MS are preferred but those with a BA or BS with qualifying experience will also be considered. All students will have to agree to complete research and deliver products to DNPW and WCP for the initial research collaboration period of 2019-2021.

Specific Responsibilities

- Successfully complete course work in CLS and comply with ethical research practices and laws as required by UF's Internal Review Board, DNPW and WCP
- Assist in the analysis, summary, and presentation of currently available data related to IWT, threats, challenges and wildlife crime trends in Zambia
- Co-author any relevant publications from existing IWT data in Zambia
- Conduct novel and applied research that leads to actionable recommendations that can be implemented by DNPW and WCP
- Work closely with counterparts in DNPW and WCP to build capacity related to research, data analysis, and wildlife crime prevention approaches

Minimum Qualifications

- Students must possess a M.A. in criminology, sociology, or related social science field; those with a MS or BA/BS with qualifying experience will be considered
- Admission into the UF's Graduate School and eligibility for a student visa as determined by UF International Center if you are a non-US applicant
- Evidence of potential for outstanding academic performance as indicated by GPA, GRE, and/or TOEFL scores¹.
- Evidence of the ability to work in collaboration and independently in a challenging context while maintaining high standards for research ethics and best practices
- Ability to maintain good standing and a minimum GPA of 3.0
- Strong leadership and organizational skills
- Strong written and communication skills

Preferred Qualifications

- Previous experience, familiarity with, research, work or living in countries of Sub-Saharan Africa or other Global South countries is highly desirable
- Experience in one or more of the following: participatory research methods, evaluation of enforcement, opportunity theories, policing approaches, intelligence analytics, spatial aspects, etc. of crime is highly desirable
- Evidence of the potential to author/co-author high quality reports and peer-review publications as indicated by provided writing samples or previous publications

Compensation

Once admitted, all new graduate students are guaranteed funding. UF provides a two-year Research Assistantship, which includes a tuition waiver from the college, and a stipend starting around \$20,000 including fringe benefits. WCP is providing funds to support on-the ground research in Zambia. The student will be expected to help write additional grants and funding requests to support or extend research activities beyond 2021.

How to apply

Please send a statement of purpose detailing your experience and research interests, a current CV, a copy of your written work (e.g., MA thesis), and an unofficial transcript from your highest degree to the research coordinator and advisor for the opportunity, Dr. Jessica Kahler (jkahler@ufl.edu), Assistant Professor in Sociology and Criminology & Law. Review of applicants and remote interviews will start December 1st and continue until filled. The departmental deadline for submission of all application materials for fall 2019 is January 15, 2019.

¹ Please see <https://socrim.clas.ufl.edu/graduate/criminology/admissions/policies/> for more information on grade point averages, GRE and TOEFL scores. Admission is based on evaluation of the total applicant record.