

M.S. Assistantship – Survival and Space-Use of a Translocated Population of Franklin’s Ground Squirrels in Northwestern Indiana

Description

One highly qualified candidate is sought to conduct a study on the survival and space-use of a translocated population of Franklin’s Ground Squirrels in northwestern Indiana, USA. This student will a) assist in capture- and release-related field activities, b) investigate cause-specific mortality and probability of survival, and c) determine home range sizes and activity patterns for translocated squirrels. This position may require occasional travel between Indiana and South Dakota. This project is funded by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

The successful applicant will obtain a research assistantship with the Purdue University Fort Wayne’s Department of Biological Sciences, which would provide the students with a stipend of approximately \$14,400 (pre-taxes) for the academic year (August – May) and includes a tuition fee remission benefit. The successful applicant will be responsible for dedicated fees each semester. A summer stipend of approximately \$4000 will be available over 2 summers. This position comes with no health benefits.

Field research will begin in May 2024. Coursework and the assistantship will begin August 2024.

Qualifications

Character Qualifications

1. Keen interest in and passion for the ecology and conservation of mammals
2. A high degree of character integrity (honest, mature, responsible, respectful)
3. A high degree of professionalism (self-motivated, hard-working, detail-oriented)
4. Strong communication, interpersonal, and leadership skills, ability to lead a research crew

Field Qualifications

1. Radio-telemetry experience (required)
2. Orienteering and GPS experience (required)
3. GIS experience (preferred)
4. Above average computer skills
5. Ability to carry heavy equipment over challenging terrain
6. Ability to work long or irregular hours
7. Valid driver’s license and good driving skills

Academic Requirements

1. B.S. in Biology or related field with a clear link to Ecology and/or Wildlife Biology (as evidenced by courses taken)
2. Undergraduate G.P.A. of > 3.0

Additional Remarks

- Housing will be provided during the summer field season. However, housing is still being determined and may include tent camping, a pop-up trailer, or a rented apartment.

To apply, please send Drs. Scott Bergeson (bergesos@pfw.edu) and Chad Williamson (chad.williamson@ndus.edu) the following documents by the application deadline:

- Letter of interest detailing your research interests, career goals, and interest in the position
- Curriculum Vitae (including G.P.A.)
- Contact information for 3 references
- Unofficial transcripts

For more information:

Purdue University Fort Wayne: <https://www.pfw.edu/>; [Bergeson Wildlife Lab](#)

Application Deadline: February 12, 2024

Applications will be reviewed as they are received