

Announcement for 1 Research Grant for Masters:

Landscape Ecology (Carnivores and Owls)

The Applied Population and Community Ecology Research Group (CIBIO/INBIO, University of Évora) is opening call for 1 research fellowship for Masters in the field of **landscape ecology** with particular emphasis on habitat fragmentation and landscape connectivity for mammal carnivores and owls, in the framework of the projects coordinated by Prof. António Mira.

Scientific Area

Biological Sciences

Academic qualification required: Masters

Required background and skills:

- Experience in carnivore and owl field surveys
- Experience in road-kill surveys, including small vertebrate fauna
- Experience with GIS software (QGIS will be favoured)
- Experience in landscape connectivity modelling
- Experience in using R
- Driving license
- Availability to work at night and weekends, when needed

Working Plan

The grant-holder will participate in the following tasks

- Carnivore surveys (camera traps, presence signs surveys and trapping)
- Owls surveys employing playback vocalizations
- Roadkill surveys of all terrestrial vertebrates in several roads of Alentejo
- Field work to update land uses cartography
- Field work to support surveys of bats, amphibians and birds, when needed
- Updating a GIS database
- Modelling landscape connectivity with different methodologies and software

Legislation

The Research Fellowship will be implemented by a contract between the University of Évora and the fellow pursuant based on the Regulation of Research Scholarships of the University of Évora (Service Order No. 1/2011), Statute of Research Fellow Science (Law no. 40/2004 of 18 August and decree-Law No 202/2012 of 27 August) and in accordance with the rules and regulation of Advanced Training and Human Resource Qualification of FCT.

Working Place

The researcher will be associated with the Applied Population and Community Ecology Research Group at CIBIO – Évora, under the supervision of Prof. António Mira. Working place will be at the University of Évora/Mitra. Field work will be done at Évora and Portalegre districts.

Duration

Starting date: June 2015,

Duration: 6 months with possible renewal till 18 months.

Stipend

The amount of the grant corresponds to 980 € per month plus social security according to the scholarships value table of FCT, I.P. in the country (<http://alfa.fct.mctes.pt/apoios/bolsas/valores>), with payments made monthly by check or wire transfer. The stipend value is free from taxation.

Selection Criteria

Evaluation will be based mostly on CV evaluation (100%). However, a live interview aiming final candidate selection may be needed for a subset of candidates that fulfil the background and skills required for the grant. If interviews will be needed, evaluation will be based on CV (50%) + interview (50%). The jury may decide not to award the grant if no candidate fulfils the requested skills.

Jury Composition

Chair: Prof. António Paulo Pereira de Mira

1st Member - Dr. Sara Maria Lopes Santos

2nd Member– Dr. Ricardo Miguel Cardoso Pita

1st Alternate – Dr. Doutor Diogo André Alagador

2nd Alternate – Dr. Ana Márcia Barbosa

Deadline for application and presentation of applications

The call will be open from the 8th May to 22th May 2015 and the selection results will be published until 27th May 2015.

Application

Applications should be sent to the following by email: amira@uevora.pt. The email should be endorsed to Prof. António Mira and include in the subject the following text: “Application to REFER Research Grant in Landscape Ecology (Carnivores/Owls) – 2015”. The application must include a cover letter (in English) explaining why you think you are an adequate candidate for the grant, a short CV (please no more than 5 pages), and the names and contacts of two senior faculty researchers that can provide a reference for you.

Please NOTE: The final approval and beginning date of the grant is dependent on conclusion of the signature of the contract between REFER and University of Évora, which is currently ongoing and on receipts of the financial dues included on it.