

The Institute for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Dynamics has an opening for:

Two PhD positions in movement ecology

vacancy # 17-060, closing date 15 March 2017

Project description

We invite applications for two PhD positions in movement ecology under the supervision of Dr Judy Shamoun-Baranes in the Computational Geo-Ecology group. The two PhD candidates will contribute to our avian movement ecology research which strives to understand how individuals adapt their movement strategies to environmental conditions, what the costs, benefits and constraints of different movement strategies are, and whether diversity is important for population persistence. The focal species for both projects is a generalist seabird, the lesser black backed gull (*Larus fuscus*) and the projects will rely heavily on the collection and analysis of bio-logging data using the UvA Bird Tracking System (www.UvA-BiTS.nl).

PhD Project Lifestyles will focus on the behavioural plasticity and energetic cost of different lifestyles. The aim of this project is to understand how intrinsic and extrinsic factors (e.g. atmospheric conditions, landscape and resource availability) influence the energetic cost of flight among different lifestyles and populations. The candidate will conduct lab and aviary experiments to measure heart rate and calibrate energy expenditure as measured in the field using tri-axial acceleration. The candidate will model the environmental envelope of flight and quantify time energy budgets throughout the annual cycle.

PhD Project Human-Wildlife Interactions will focus on consequences of human-wildlife interactions. The main aim of this project is to gain understanding in how gulls adapt their behaviour to human activities. This project is being conducted within the context of offshore wind turbine and aerial wildlife conflicts. This project integrates extensive fieldwork in a breeding colony on the Wadden Island Schiermonnikoog. The candidate will be expected to communicate regularly with the project stakeholders.

We are looking for a motivated student with an M.Sc in ecology, evolution or earth science with a strong affinity for ecology, or an equivalent discipline. We expect an interest in multidisciplinary research and good communication skills. We expect experience working with spatial data, preferably movement data, good data analysis and modelling skills. experience with programming in MatLab or R and working with databases is an advantage. Interest and preferably experience in field work (especially Project human-wildlife interactions) and working with large and complex datasets are an advantage.

The projects start spring 2017. The full-time appointment will be on a temporary basis for a maximum period of four years and should lead to a dissertation (PhD thesis). The full-time gross monthly salary will range from € 2,191 in the first year to € 2,801 in the final year, according to the Dutch salary scales for PhD students.

Applications should be sent **before 16 March 2017**, via email to: application-science@uva.nl. Please quote the vacancy number in the subject field. Interviews, will be held on 5 April 2017. Applications should include (i) a detailed CV including educational experience, a list of publications (if any) and the names and contact addresses of two academic references, (ii) a letter describing motivation and research interests including an indication project preference, and (iii) an English writing sample (e.g. paper, MSc or BSc thesis). Please combine these materials into a single PDF file. For more details see <http://tinyurl.com/jt2vuhn>. For questions about the project contact Dr Judy Shamoun-Baranes (shamoun@uva.nl).

