

August 1, 2016



PhD Position in Disease Modeling
University of Alberta – Edmonton, Alberta Canada
Start date: 3 January 2017

Department: Biological Sciences, University of Alberta
Location: Edmonton, Alberta Canada
Duration: 4-5 years

Stipend: \$25,398 CAD per annum

Project background and Description.

The PhD candidate's work will be part of a long-term research collaboration between the Department of Biological Sciences and the Alberta Fish and Wildlife on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in deer in eastern Alberta and portions of Saskatchewan. The student will work closely with researchers in the Prion Centre at the University of Alberta and at the University of Calgary. The student is expected to be involved with aspects of field efforts to collect behavioural and genetic information to quantify the spatial use and grouping patterns of mule deer for developing models to predict the spatial spread of CWD across Alberta and Saskatchewan. The work will integrate deer population and genetic data with ecological data allowing the student to further develop analysis skills to work with large data sets containing multiple landscape variables and to provide user friendly interfaces that allow managers to update spread predictions on an annual basis.

Preferred Qualifications:

- MSc degree or equivalent work experience
- Proficiency in field data collection methods, handling animals, and collecting biological samples
- Aptitude in quantitative skills with experience in the analytical tools commonly used in population and landscape ecology
- Ability to use ArcGIS and relevant statistical packages including program R
- Demonstrated ability for excellent writing, oral, and interpersonal skills
- Willingness to multi-task, interface with managers and work long hours in the field

To apply provide the following by 6 September 2016 (preferred to meet UA application deadline) or until a suitable candidate is found.

- 1) cover letter stating research interests in wildlife diseases and summary of qualifications
- 2) CV/resume and any publications
- 3) the names of three references (name, position, address, email, phone number) in a single PDF attachment and send by email with "CWD PhD Application_Your-Last-Name" in subject line to Dr. Evelyn Merrill, emerrill@ualberta.ca

For more information on Dr. Merrill's lab and the University of Alberta see:
<https://www.ualberta.ca/biological-sciences>