

Field Research Internship – Columbian ground squirrels

Department of Biology
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, SK, Canada S7N 5E2



Internship Description: We are looking for 4 interns interested in taking part in a field ecology project on Columbian ground squirrels. Two interns will begin Apr 10, 2018 and two will begin May 1, 2018. All four internships will finish on Aug 31, 2018. The project investigates the ecology of Columbian ground squirrels. As a member of the study, interns will be involved with monitoring the phenology (when animals emerge from hibernation), reproduction and survival of individuals. Fieldwork will involve live-trapping and handling of animals, radio-telemetry, behavioural observation and assistance with the measurement of physiological (metabolism) traits on free-ranging animals. This is an excellent opportunity to gain training and experience working with a collaborative research team on a long-term study of a wild mammal. Opportunities for independent research projects are also available.

All fieldwork is carried out in the spectacular Rocky Mountains of southwestern Alberta, Canada, home to some of the most majestic wildlife in North America. Interns will have the opportunity to interact with, and learn from, other researchers working with ground squirrels on a diversity of projects in behavioural and population ecology. Additionally, a number of other researchers in the area are studying a range of species, from insects to large mammals.

International applicants: If applicants are not Canadians or permanent residents, they will be required to apply to enter Canada as Visiting Research Students. This is a simple and straight-forward procedure and both current (graduate and undergraduate) and recently graduated (i.e. 'in between' degrees) students are eligible. Application forms and information are available at <http://grad.usask.ca/admissions/alternate-applicants/visiting-research-student.php> If you are interested in this program, please contact us (contact details below) and we will guide you through the process.

Skills Required: These positions are best suited to applicants with interests in ecology, evolutionary biology, wildlife, field biology, and/or physiological ecology. As evidence of this, applicants must either be enrolled in, or have graduated from, a relevant discipline. Successful applicants will need to be able to cope under these field conditions (including periods of time spent camping), enjoy the outdoors, be up-beat, positive, responsible and work well as a member of a team. Evidence of these abilities (gained, for example, through previous involvement on field projects or extended back-packing trips) is desirable.

Terms of Employment: These are volunteer positions and a salary is not provided. Accommodation and food are provided. Volunteers are required to provide for their own travel to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Travel between the field station and Saskatoon is provided.

If you wish to apply for one of these posts then please send a CV with a cover letter and contact details for three references (with e-mail addresses), by email to Jeff Lane (contact info below) by January 31, 2018.

Contact:

Dr. Jeff Lane

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www.lanelab.ca