



Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology
Russell Laboratories, 1630 Linden Drive
Madison WI 53706-1598 USA
<http://forestandwildlifeecology.wisc.edu/>

Ph.D. Position in Deer Behavior and Chronic Wasting Disease Transmission

Position description: We seek a Ph.D. student to investigate white-tailed deer behaviors relevant to transmission of chronic wasting disease (CWD). This study is part of a USDA-funded project modeling CWD transmission dynamics in deer. CWD is caused by prions (misfolded, infectious proteins) that transmit between deer through direct contact and indirectly through environment reservoirs. This project will require working with video data of deer behaviors, including video camera traps that monitor deer behavior at potential environmental reservoirs and videos from GPS collars fitted with video cameras that monitor deer behaviors and contacts on the landscape. The successful applicant will have the opportunity to work with collaborators at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Geological Survey and collaborating universities. We strongly encourage people from historically underrepresented groups to apply.

The successful candidate will enroll as a Ph.D. student in the Wildlife Ecology graduate program in the Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology at University of Wisconsin - Madison. The student will join the research team of Dr. Wendy Turner at the Wisconsin Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit in the department, a diverse, enthusiastic and talented group of graduate students and scientists studying the ecology of wildlife diseases (see more about the team at <https://www.wendyturner.org/people/>). This project is fully funded (academic years and summers) and the applicant will have the opportunity to take courses from specialists across the university to develop their skill sets in wildlife ecology, wildlife disease, programming, and a range of quantitative techniques.

Start date: Ideally January 2023; August 2023 is also possible

Location: Based at University of Wisconsin - Madison located in Madison, Wisconsin, with fieldwork (monitoring camera traps and collared deer) nearby in the area of Dodgeville. Details on the graduate program:
<https://forestandwildlifeecology.wisc.edu/academics/graduate-programs/wildlife-ecology-handbook/>

Our department's diversity and inclusion statement:

<https://forestandwildlifeecology.wisc.edu/fwediversityandinclusion/diversityandinclusion/>

Qualifications: Minimum qualifications include a Bachelor's degree in a related field, an enthusiasm for tackling important questions for wildlife disease management, an interest in developing the quantitative skills necessary to work with large camera trap data sets, strong communication abilities, and an ability to work effectively as part of a team. The ideal candidate would also have a Master's degree in wildlife ecology or a related field, experience working with camera trap images, and training or an interest in statistics, machine learning or other quantitative approaches.

Stipend: \$25,800/year (a level set subject to university and departmental policy) plus benefits and tuition waiver. Position is for an estimated 5 years. Graduate assistant benefits: <https://hr.wisc.edu/docs/2022-grad-benefits-summary.pdf>

To apply: send an email to Dr. Wendy Turner (wendy.turner@wisc.edu). This email should include a letter expressing your interests and qualifications relative to the position, a resume/CV highlighting your training and experience, an unofficial copy of prior transcripts, and contact details for two references. The selected candidate will then need to submit an application to the Wildlife Ecology graduate program. This application requires a minimum GPA of 3.0. GRE scores are not required.

Closing date: Please email your application by September 30th, 2022. The position will be open until filled.

The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs) is committed to maintaining and growing a culture that embraces diversity, inclusion, and equity, believing that these values are foundational elements of our excellence and fundamental components of a positive and enriching learning and working environment for all students, faculty, and staff. At CALs, we acknowledge that bias, prejudice, racism, and hate have historically occurred in many forms that cause significant and lasting harm to members of our community. We commit to taking actions each day toward a college that is inclusive and welcoming to all.