



Phd-student position in behavioral ecology

A 3-year position is open at the Institute for Wildlife Biology and Game Management (IWJ), Department of Integrative Biology and Biodiversity Research, at the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU). The successful applicant will study the role of sexually selected infanticide in a non-social carnivore, the brown bear within a project funded by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF). This project is administrated and carried out by IWJ in cooperation with the Scandinavian Brown Bear Research Project (SBBRP), which is located at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (UMB). The successful applicant will study infanticide and its evolution in a non-social species in the wild and the impact human harvest has on this behavior. Behavior of and interactions between individual brown bears will be studied with GPS radio-collar technology. Access to the long-term, individual based data base of the SBBRP, including data on over 500 captured and marked bears and over 1000 hunter-killed bears, will be provided. Genetic data, including pedigrees, are also available. The successful candidate will work with three advisors; Dr. Andreas Zedrosser (BOKU, UMB), Prof. Klaus Hackländer (BOKU), Prof. Jon Swenson (UMB).

A Master's degree is required from a university or scientific college. The study will include extensive periods of field work; a driver's license is required. In addition, a good understanding of evolutionary biology, behavioral ecology and statistical data analysis are needed. Applicants with documented knowledge in these fields will be prioritized. Applicants must be able to work both independently and as a part of an international team of PhD-students and scientists working on various aspects of the behavioral ecology and life history of Brown bears in Scandinavia.

The goal is the successful completion of a PhD-degree. The successful applicant is required to enter an approved PhD-program, and the work must be planned in order to complete the requirements of the PhD-degree during the course of the 3-year period. The PhD will be carried out within a Cotutelle framework as a cooperative degree between BOKU and UMB. This will require the successful candidate to spend periods of time in Austria and Norway. Wages are according to the pay scale of FWF (http://www.fwf.ac.at/de/projects/personalkostensaetze_2007.html).

Applicants should send an electronic application, incl. CV and grades from courses taken and, if available, a list of publications and copies of these, to andreas.zedrosser@boku.ac.at. The application deadline is December 7, 2007. Interviews will take place in the 4th week of January, 2008. The start of this study is projected to be March 2008. More information can be obtained from Dr. A. Zedrosser at above address.

BOKU seeks to increase the percentage of female employees and strongly encourages qualified women to apply. Applicants are not entitled to reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses incurred by the selection and interviewing procedure.