

## Description

Graduate assistantship focused on movement and social structure of white-tailed deer in Ontario- We are seeking a highly motivated person to pursue a PhD degree in the Environmental and Life Sciences Program at Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario, Canada. The successful applicant will join a large team of Ministry staff, academic researchers and other graduate students to work on a large, multi-faceted field project with the primary focus on quantifying potential spread of chronic wasting disease in Ontario's landscapes. Within this broader objective, the successful applicant will have considerable responsibility and freedom to formulate and address basic and applied research questions grounded in ecological theory. The student will be expected to help coordinate and lead much of the field aspects of the project, including capture and collaring of deer, deployment and maintenance of trail cameras, and conducting aerial and ground-based population surveys. The study sites are based in southern and central Ontario and the research will have direct applied relevance to the province. The student will be co-advised by Dr. Joe Northrup and Dr. Brent Patterson both of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry & Trent University.

## Requirements

M.Sc. degree in ecology, wildlife, biology or related field is required but exceptional past experience may be considered in place of a M.Sc. degree. Desired qualifications include a GPA >3.5 (4.0 scale) and field experience working with large mammals. A strong background in ecology, demonstrated analytical capabilities, passion for wildlife research and strong quantitative, writing, and oral communication skills are required. The strongest applicants will have demonstrated experience with programming languages commonly used for statistical and scientific applications (e.g., R and Python), and familiarity with geospatial software (e.g., ArcMap, QGIS).

## Application instructions

Please email a cover letter with an explicit statement of analytical/quantitative experience and abilities, current CV, unofficial transcripts, scientific writing sample and contact info for  $\geq 3$  references as a single attachment to Joe Northrup at northruplabpositions@gmail.com. Questions about the position can be sent to joseph.northrup@ontario.ca. At least one of the references should have direct knowledge of the applicant's analytical capabilities. **The successful applicant is expected to begin in January 2021. Application deadline is December 1, 2020 but review of applications will begin immediately and continue until a suitable candidate is found.**