

Post-Doctoral Visitor (PDV)

Job description: Postdoctoral visitor for the NFRF-funded project on “Primates & People: A bio-geo-cultural approach to understanding human wildlife interaction”. This is a two-year position.

Brief project description: This project is a collaboration between Dr. Valerie Schoof (PI, Biology, Glendon College, York University), Dr. Yuhong He (co-PI, Geography, University of Toronto-Mississauga), and Dr. Suzanne MacDonald (co-PI, Psychology, York University). The objective of this research is to examine the nature of human-wildlife interaction using a bio-geo-cultural approach to understand the causes and consequences of perceived differences in the benefits and costs of human-wildlife interaction. Biodiversity is increasingly threatened as large areas of tropical forest are lost or modified, leading to increasing shared use of resources between humans and animals. To understand human-wildlife interactions and perceptions thereof, the proposed study will focus on bridging 1) traditional *biological* approaches to studying animal behaviour (e.g., scan sampling, non-invasive physiological monitoring, camera-traps), 2) *geographical* methods for studying animal and human land use (e.g., GIS with GPS-generated layers for animal movement, locations of schools, healthcare, and clean water, and LANDSAT layer for habitat characterization), and 3) *anthropological* methods for studying humans (e.g., surveys to examine variation in culture and wealth). There is some flexibility within this general framework for the successful PDV candidate to contribute to the design of the project and to incorporate their own research interests.

Duties, Responsibilities, and Tasks

The PDV will train in standard data collection protocols used by the Community Nkima Project at Lake Nabugabo, Uganda, and will then reside at the Lewa-Borana Conservancy for a period of approximately 16 months to act as project manager, followed by an approximately 8-month period in Toronto at Dr. Schoof’s newly CFI-funded Primate Behavioural Endocrinology Lab (set-up Fall 2019). Duties, responsibilities, and tasks are described below, but note that other duties, responsibilities, and tasks may be assigned at the discretion of the supervisor to whom this position reports. See <http://gradstudies.yorku.ca/postdoctoral-fellows/international/>

Field-work (September 2019-December 2020):

- 1 month: Undergo approximately 1 month of training at Community Nkima Project at Lake Nabugabo, Uganda in standard data collection protocols
- 3 months: individual IDs of two groups of vervets at Lewa-Borana Conservancy, Kenya
- 12 months:
 - Collect behavioral data (i.e., scan activity data between 7:30AM-4:30PM at least 12 days per month), fecal samples for hormone processing, GPS data, camera-trap data collection, co-supervision of local Kenyan hire
 - On a monthly basis, it is expected that at least 12 days will be spent collecting data from the vervet monkeys, with the remaining time spent on other responsibilities including data management and entry, hormone processing.
 - Time for the PDV to write and publish their own work from previous projects will be negotiated based on need.

Primate Behavioural Endocrinology Lab (PBEL), Glendon College, York University (estimated dates January – August 2021)

- Data management and analyses
- Hormone analyses
- Manuscript preparation
- Participation in supervision of undergraduate and graduate students in the PBEL
- The PDV may be provided with teaching opportunities up to a maximum of 1.0 FCE per year, with payment for any assigned teaching responsibilities equivalent to the prevailing rate for instruction in the CUPE 3903 Unit 2 collective agreement as adjusted annually.

Salary & Benefits:

- Salary of \$31,500CAD per annum, pro-rated for the period of the fellowship if applicable.
- All PDVs at York will be provided with extended health care benefits. This will be provided in the form of an annually renewed Health Care Spending Account containing \$1,200CAD (accessible at \$100CAD/month) from which the PDV will be reimbursed for expenditures on health, dental, vision and other medical expenses that qualify for the medical expense tax credit as defined by the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) and its Regulations.
- PDVs are included in the York University Faculty Association (YUFA). All information included in this guide can be found in the YUFA collective agreement, which is accessible through the following website: <http://www.yufa.ca>
- PDVs at York are entitled to fifteen (15) business days of paid vacation per annum, prorated for the period of the fellowship.
- Travel benefits: The PI will cover the cost of one round-trip airfare per year between the PDV's home country and Kenya up to a maximum of \$1,600CAD/year for two years, as well as the costs associated with travel to Uganda for training, and one round-trip airfare to and from Toronto in the second year (up to a maximum of \$1,600CAD). The PDV is expected to cover all costs of in-country travel in Kenya and Canada.

Room & Board: The PDV is expected to pay for their own room and board at the Lewa-Borana Conservancy at a negotiated rate of \$1,000USD/month; if room and board exceed this amount, the difference will be paid by the PI, Dr. Schoof. The PDV is also expected to pay for their own accommodations (estimated at \$1300CAD/month) and food (estimated at \$300/month) while in Toronto, Canada; no supplement will be paid for room and board while in Toronto.

Preferred qualifications:

- PhD in hand on September 1, 2019 in Biology, Anthropology, Psychology, Environmental Studies or other related field.
- At least 6 months of field experience, preferably with primates
- Adaptable, good communication skills
- GIS and/or hormone enzyme immunoassay experience
- We encourage applications from underrepresented groups, including applicants from primate host countries.

Application Materials (send in English or French): DEADLINE JULY 15, 2019

- Cover letter, outlining relevance of past research experience, interpersonal skills, leadership, overlap in research interests with Schoof lab, and how this position would benefit career-goals
- CV
- Names and contact information (including email and phone) for three references

Contact information

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