



## Volunteer Wildlife Research: Small Mammal Communities

The Wildlife Science Department at the University of Göttingen invites applications for a student volunteer. The student will be part of a study investigating the effects of forest management on small mammal community structure and composition. This is a collaborative research project of the [RTG 2300](#), with the overall aim of the research group being to study the ecosystem effects of mixing Norway spruce or Douglas fir with European beech. You will work with an international group of students and researchers at field sites located throughout Lower Saxony and gain valuable wildlife research experience including many new and upcoming methodologies. The primary objective of the student will be to collect data during the summer fieldwork period and gain experience with practical field work and wildlife research.

Following training to set traps, handle and identify small mammals, and follow field protocols, the successful student will work with the project's lead PhD student to survey small mammals at 4 or more sites across Lower Saxony for 5 days at each site. There will also be opportunities to gain experience with wildlife cameras and other technologies to assess small mammal behavior and decision making.

You will learn many wildlife research skills including:

- How to set various types of traps and capture small mammals
- Handling, identification, and measurement of small mammals
- Marking of wildlife for population estimation (mark-recapture)
- Tissue sample collection for genetic analysis
- Camera trapping
- Practical field work skills such as navigation, accurate data recording, logistical considerations, etc.

**Starting date:** July 1, with primary field work July 6 – September 4, 2020, plus training in late June for small mammal handling and identification. Volunteers will be required to commit to a minimum 4-week period during the field season.

**Financial support:** Transportation is provided to and from field sites. Housing will be provided when working at field sites >1hr from Göttingen, and material costs are covered.

This project requires long days in the field and flexible schedules, so a sense of humor, positive attitude, patience, and self-motivation are essential. Successful students will have demonstrable academic and/or field experience, work well independently and with others, communicate effectively in a variety of situations, demonstrate a willingness and ability to live in shared housing, enjoy working outdoors, and be conscientious about safety. Spoken English proficiency is necessary to communicate with the team.

Applications should include: (1) a short motivation letter (including why you are interested in the project), (2) Curriculum vitae, and (3) a photo of your favorite animal.

Please submit your application electronically as a single document (PDF preferred) by **June 12, 2020**. *Applications will be considered on a rolling basis as they are received, so do not hesitate to send your application before the deadline!* Applications and questions should be sent to: Mr. Scott Appleby, [scott.appleby@forst.uni-goettingen.de](mailto:scott.appleby@forst.uni-goettingen.de)

