Undergraduate Research Assistant
Rattlesnake Research – Southern Okanagan

Application Deadline: Feb 10, 2019
Applications directed to Dana Eye (eyed10@mytru.ca)

We are seeking a highly motivated, academic student to assist with research on the ecology of female Western Rattlesnakes on the Osoyoos Indian Band Reserve in Osoyoos, BC. The candidate will work directly with the lead Graduate student researcher on daily fieldwork tasks. The ideal candidate has a genuine, demonstrated interest in animal ecology and conservation, rather than solely a fascination with snakes. Anticipated employment term from May 1st – August 31st for returning students, though extending earlier or later is possible depending on availability.

Applicants ideally should be returning students or recent graduates (within 4 months of graduation) and residents of Canada. Students eligible for UREAP awards (GPA 3.2 or higher on TRU scale) is preferable however applicants that have a background in wildlife or previous fieldwork experience will be considered. Please clearly state how you meet these criteria in your application.
Qualifications

- Possession of or working toward a degree or diploma in biology, natural resources, or related field.
- Interest in academic research and potential willingness to take on a directed studies or Honours project.
- Physically fit – Able to hike 10-12km with 1-2km of elevation gain per day in extreme heat, rain, and any weather conditions with a 15-30lb pack.
- Engagement and presentation skills for various outreach events.
- Understanding of ecological concepts and research methods and willingness to learn.
- Candidate must be comfortable physically handling animals including venomous (rattlesnakes) and non-venomous snakes. Extensive training provided, experience not necessary but is an asset.
- Successful applicant will be required to complete the University of Saskatchewan UACC Animal Ethics Course – Wildlife (no fee) within 1 month of start date

Assets – not required but will be given preference

- Competitive GPA – will be expected to apply for undergraduate funding prior to starting to offset costs
- Previous experience with dangerous/venomous wildlife and demonstrated experience with risk assessment and field preparation
- Previous experience with some of the following: GPS, compass, navigation, database management, radio telemetry
- Class 5 driver’s license an asset
  o Possession of a vehicle is not required but would be considered an asset

Expectations

- Anticipated 35 hours/week. Applicant should be very flexible with scheduling throughout the work term. Due to the varied seasonal behaviours or northern snake populations, field work for this project is “boom/bust”. Time off is possible but flexibility is dependent on the time of year.
  o This position will not have ‘regular’ hours and will see start times shift throughout the season including early mornings and/or nightshifts (heat of summer).
- Strong communication skills. Applicants will be expected to maintain open communication with the lead researcher and research team.
Compensation

- Free accommodation will be provided during the work term.
- Successful candidates will be responsible for food and all other expenses outside of job activities.
- Stipend to be discussed during the interview process.

Interested candidates should apply with a Cover Letter and Resume with reference contact information no later than **Feb. 10, 2019**. Questions and applications can be directed to Dana Eye (eyed10@mytru.ca), Thompson Rivers University, and Research House 6/7. Local applicants are welcome to come speak to me in person.