



Animal & Plant Health Agency

The Animal and Plant Health Agency

APHA is an executive agency of the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). We are responsible for identifying, managing, and controlling incidents and outbreaks of endemic and exotic diseases and pests in animals, plants and bees, as well as carrying out research. We provide unique capabilities and an evidence base for UK government.

We are looking for a PIPS intern to work within the APHA Wildlife Department, based near York. The department is a nationally important centre for wildlife disease management with multidisciplinary skills in epidemiology, statistics, and field ecology.

Placements

The position is with the Wildlife Department's Epidemiology and Modelling Team. Here, you will be working with citizen science data to validate the animal density and distribution estimates that underpin our modelling work. The models produced by the team predict the spread within wildlife of diseases with significant zoonotic or livestock health implications.

You will take the lead on this validation work, identifying suitable data sets from citizen science camera trapping programmes such as [MammalWeb](#) and our own archive of camera trap data, and extracting time-to-detection information for a range of wildlife species. You will derive indices of density from this data and compare it with the existing density estimates. You will also be working with this data to investigate the effect of reduced human activity during lockdown on wildlife and domestic animals.

You will have the opportunity to work within a small team in a government science department, and gain insight into working in support of policy making in Defra. You will develop your skills in team working, time management and project management. You will have the opportunity to contribute to a scientific paper describing this work.

Candidate Requirements

You will have the ability to collaborate with others but be capable of self-direction. You will have good computer literacy and be able to demonstrate skills in statistics or data analysis. Ideally you should have an interest in wildlife. You will be expected to work on site or at home and therefore must have access to your own computer.

Placement details

The placement is based at the APHA site at Sand Hutton, York YO10 3AQ. The site is accessible by public transport. Covid19 related restrictions mean that the site is accessible but operating on reduced staffing levels. Contact with other team member is likely to be remote for much of the time until restrictions are lifted.

The position is for three months. The placement ends in October 2021, but the start date is flexible. The working pattern can be flexible, but you will be expected to spend some part of your time on site.

Application details

Please send your CV to richard.budgey@apha.gov along with a covering letter explaining why you are applying for this role and the skills you can bring to it and what you would like to achieve from this internship. Deadline for application 15/07/21.

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy