

CALL/english version

We seek outstanding, highly motivated PhD candidate to work on the NCN project 'Coordination of parental performance in an Arctic seabird' (<http://kasiawojczulanis.webs.com/ongoing-reaserch>)

The project aims to evaluate the coordination of parental performance of pair members and to relate the coordination to the fitness of the whole family in a small Arctic seabird, the little auk (*Alle alle*). This is a novel perspective to look at male and female parental performance being long viewed through perspective of sexual conflict. The reproductive behaviour will be examined across the whole breeding season (mating, incubation and chick rearing period), being compared between the breeding stages and related to various body condition parameters in the parents and offspring

The fieldwork will be performed during three consecutive seasons (2018-2020; ca 2-3 months each season) in the little auk colony in Hornsund, Spitsbergen (with people accommodation at Polish Polar Station). The fieldwork activities will include: nest monitoring, maintenance of audio-video set-up, direct observations, adults and chicks handling (blood/feathers /faces sampling, measuring). The post-field lab work will include: processing of the audio/video material, molecular sexing and microscopy analysis of blood smears. Modern statistical approach (simulations and modelling) which be applied to analyze the collected data. The student will be required to participate in at least two field seasons, and perform the whole lab work.

The students will be based at University of Gdansk, (Gdansk, Poland). The research project will commence in July 2018 and students need to start by June 2018, preferably earlier. Funding is guaranteed for 3 years (2750 PLN per month), mostly through research assistantship, but teaching assistantship is also possible starting from the second year (a competitive stipend of ca 1500 PLN per month).

Job requirements

- documented M.Sc. degree in biology, ecology, statistics or similar.
- fluent English, enabling communication and scientific writing.
- scientific curiosity, high motivation and experience in fieldwork with birds: searching for nests, catching, measuring, ringing etc.
- good health, and strong physical and psychological condition (intensive fieldwork in a small team, in often tough ambient conditions).
- capability to work in a group and individually.
- high ethical standards, reliability, precision, and persistence in fieldwork, lab work and manuscripts preparation

Extra points

- experience in publication preparation documented by authored/co-authored papers.
- knowledge of statistical methods; experience in R software highly desired.
- experience in laboratory work (molecular sex identification and microscopy analysis)
- good sense of humour

How to apply?

Please, send the application to PI, Dr. Katarzyna Wojczulanis-Jakubas (biokwj@univ.gda.pl)

Application should include:

- 1) Covering letter detailing reasons for applying and why this project was selected.
- 2) CV with scientific achievements and experience including papers published in scientific journals, awards, scholarships, participation in workshops, scientific projects, etc.
- 3) Letter of recommendation from a previous research collaborator

Deadline to send the application is **February 15, 2018**. The first decision will be made until March 15, 2018. In between the Applicant may be asked to participate in interview by internet communicators (Skype/Hangout). The next step for the successful candidate will be recruitment for Life Sciences and Mathematics Interdisciplinary Doctoral Studies (in English) at the University of Gdansk.