

ANNOUNCEMENT

15.06.2015

PHD STUDENT POSITION IN EVOLUTIONARY FISH ECOLOGY

We announce a four-year graduate student position (01.09.2015 – 31.08.2019) at the Department of Biology, University of Eastern Finland (UEF), Joensuu campus in the project “Evolutionary restoration of trout populations impacted by human-induced selection”, funded by the Academy of Finland. PhD work will take place in our new project that is based on a large breeding experiment, and in which we study the genetic basis of vulnerability to angling, life-history variation and trait co-variation (pace-of-life syndromes) especially with respect to migration behaviour in brown trout. The PhD student is expected to have a background in genetics and to have basic knowledge on next generation sequencing techniques and associated bioinformatics methods. The work will require occasional visits to and a 2-12 month stay at the Department of Biology, University of Turku, but basic work such as DNA extraction can be conducted at the local department in Joensuu. The recruited PhD-student would join an appropriate graduate school of University of Eastern Finland and be supervised by Dr. Anssi Vainikka (Joensuu), Dr. Silva Uusi-Heikkilä (Turku) and Prof. Robert Arlinghaus (Berlin, Germany).

We encourage applications from highly motivated candidates interested in evolutionary genetics, animal personality research and fishing/hatchery-induced evolution. We offer a competitive salary according to the UEF standards (also based on the candidate’s progress, ca. 2000 – 3500 eur / month) the benefits of a young, very productive research group and an international network of collaborations. Some teaching obligations are included in the position (to be negotiated). Four month trial period is used in the recruitment. Joensuu is a small (about 75 000 inhabitants) rather international university town in Eastern Finland, but well connected through railways and an airport. Joensuu offers a nice environment especially for a person interested in nature-related hobbies. Fishing skills are appreciated but by no means compulsory. Field work is conducted in Kainuu Fisheries Research station in Paltamo, located 270 km north from Joensuu.

We expect the successful candidate to be fluent in English, since modern academic research is based on international collaboration, and all scientific reports (Finnish PhD thesis consists of 4-5 research articles/manuscripts and a summary) will be written in English. We require some demonstrations of good writing skills, and therefore ask the applicants to attach a motivation letter (two pages) describing in English, why would you be a suitable person for the work, how do you see research on fish genetics could help to solve sustainability issues and what are your personal ambitions in science. Please also analyse your strengths and weaknesses. We do not expect you to be a PhD during admission phase, but ready to work hard enough to become a highly qualified PhD in four years.

Please send your application together with your CV to anssi.vainikka@uef.fi by 30.7.2015. You can also send a voluntary recommendation letter separately to the e-mail address above from one referee. The best three candidates will be interviewed through Skype.

Please ask for more information: Dr. Anssi Vainikka, tel. +358 500 443290 or anssi.vainikka@uef.fi or Dr. Silva Uusi-Heikkilä, silva.uus-heikkila@utu.fi

More information about our research:

<https://www2.uef.fi/en/aquatic-ecology/home> & <http://www.kfrs.fi> & <http://pnp.utu.fi/silva.html>