Research Assistantship Opportunity

TITLE: M.S. Graduate Research Assistantship (RA) – Aquatic Turtle Ecology
CLASSIFICATION: Full-time, M.S. Thesis Option
AGENCY: Environmental Institute of Houston (EIH)
WEBSITE: https://www.uhcl.edu/environmental-institute/

JOB DESCRIPTION:
The Environmental Institute of Houston (EIH) at the University of Houston-Clear Lake (UHCL), under contract with the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, is conducting field surveys of aquatic turtles to provide the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) data for direct use in wildlife population management decisions.

An excellent opportunity exists for new graduate students interested in freshwater ecology and herpetology. This is an opportunity to gain valuable field experience collecting environmental DNA (eDNA) and genetic samples, conducting herpetological field surveys, and analyzing data directly related to species conservation and wildlife management, particularly related to Western Chicken Turtles and Alligator Snapping Turtles. Individuals will be responsible for conducting an applied research project under direction of Dr. George Guillen. The student(s) will be responsible for learning various field and laboratory techniques and will work closely with an interdisciplinary team of scientists and fellow graduate students.

Campus is located in a beautiful natural area adjacent to NASA and the Armand Bayou Nature Center, 5 minutes from Galveston Bay and Clear Lake, and 30 minutes from the Gulf of Mexico. This posting is recruiting for an RA starting in the Spring or Summer 2021 session. Will support one M.S. student.

LOCATION: Based in Houston, TX; includes travel throughout central and east Texas

SALARY: Up to $2,000/month (temporary, non-benefits eligible); 50% employment during spring/fall semesters, up to 40 hours per week during summer; travel expenses covered by grant funds

QUALIFICATIONS:
Required
• Graduation from an accredited university with a B.S. in an appropriate field (e.g., wildlife management, biology, environmental science, etc.) with excellent academic credentials and recommendations.
• Acceptance into graduate school in the Environmental Science Program at UHCL (M.S. thesis option)
• Academic commitment to work on project fulltime and timely completion of project
• Must be willing to travel, but the selected student(s) need to have a location to stay nearby UHCL
• Good physical condition (able to lift 50+ lbs.); positive attitude; able to work in team or independently

Preferred
• Previous scientific data collection & field experience in ecology, wildlife management, or a related topic
• Experience in water collection, herpetological surveys, and driving/trailering small vessels (< 25 ft.)
• Field sampling techniques including: hoop trapping, freshwater turtle identification, eDNA sampling

Additional Notes: All applicants must possess a valid driver’s license and be physically able to drive university vehicles. Applicants must pass a criminal background and motor vehicle background check prior to hiring. This is not a benefits eligible position.

Applications should submit a cover letter, resume, & contact information for 3 references to Dr. George Guillen.

START DATE: February 2021
APPLICATION DEADLINE: Friday, December 4, 2020
CONTACT: Dr. George Guillen, (281) 283-3950, guillen@uhcl.edu *e-mail preferred