



Centre for
Forest Protection

Six month paid internship from Oct 2024

Project title: Understanding social acceptability of 'lost' tree species restoration

The Centre for Forest Protection is offering this opportunity as part of an exciting programme of six-month science project internships. This placement will be based at Forest Research and provides training in research and professional skills, as well as work experience with Great Britain's principal organisation for forestry and tree-related research.

General Information

Salary

£24,323 per annum

Location

This project will be based at Forest Research, Northern Research Station, Midlothian, Scotland. EH25 9SY. University of St Andrews, St. Katherine's West, The Scores, St. Andrews, KY16 9AX. Partial remote working may also be possible.

Host Department

Social Sciences

Supervisor

Dr Mariella Marzano

Project details

The loss of tree species has widespread ecological and economic consequences, potentially changing the form and function of existing and future treescapes. Such losses also potentially affect people, through diminished heritage and altered sense of place. Studies warn of the growing threat from societal extinction, whereby cultural memory and therefore concern is also lost. Restoring lost tree species to the treescape can generate positive psychological and cultural gains, and also support ecological and ecosystem

service goals. However, pathways for tree restoration must be feasible socially and economically as well as technologically.

During this internship you will be assisting with PhD research into the values, attitudes, and expectations related to elm species restoration at three case study sites across the UK. Tasks may include literature review and synthesis, assistance with fieldwork logistics, conducting semi-structured interviews, assisting with participatory research activities within communities, preliminary data analysis and writing up aspects of the research undertaken.

You will also be developing a discrete area of the ongoing research programme. This will be finalised following discussion with the successful candidate (e.g. social acceptability, more-than-human engagement). You will experience a complete cycle of research with a sense of agency.

Some travel may be included in the internship, with visits to North West Scotland, South East England and the border between England and Wales with PhD researchers.

What you will gain through this internship

- Experience working within an interdisciplinary team and contributing to a major UK research project.
- Opportunities to contribute to the design and implementation of research.
- Experience of semi-structured interviewing and participatory activities
- An increased understanding of restoration ecology.
- An increased understanding of social acceptability.
- Opportunities to develop skills in research design and methodologies with the School of Geography and Sustainable Development at The University of St. Andrews.
- Ongoing development through regular training sessions with staff at The University of St. Andrews.
- Opportunities to communicate science to science and non-science audiences.
- Opportunities to build networks and access leaders in their fields.

Person specification

Applicants must have the right to work in the UK

Education and experience

- Honours degree in social science, environmental science or other relevant discipline.
- Basic experience in social science or humanities research methods.
- Capacity to read and synthesise academic literature.
- Interest in sustainable development, ecology, restoration, forestry, land use and human nature/relationships.

Personal skills

- Good attention to detail.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Good verbal and written communication skills.
- A willingness to listen, learn and adapt.
- A self-starter able to manage their own time effectively.

Application Information

Closing date:

4th August

Interviews:

Between 8th and 22nd August

For more information on the project:

Contact Dr Mariella Marzano

Mariella.marzano@forestresearch.gov.uk

To apply for this position:

Please email your C.V. to Dr Suzanne Sancisi-Frey suzanne.frey@forestresearch.gov.uk together with a personal statement addressing:

- Why you are interested in this post (250 – 300 words)
- How you feel you could contribute to the project/s (250-300 words)