One PhD track position in the Common Buzzard Project, Bielefeld, Germany

We are looking for a bright and ambitious student to join our research on common buzzards, goshawks, eagle owls and other birds of prey. Together with us you will use cutting-edge technologies to better understand and write many high-profile publications about the ecology, morph-dependent host-parasite interaction behaviour, physiology and transcriptomics of these fantastic birds!

WHERE: If you decide to join this research adventure, you will be joining our team at the Department of Animal Behaviour in Bielefeld University, Germany. Field work takes place around Bielefeld, where we have been studying the raptor populations over 30 years.

WHAT YOU WILL BE DOING: You will be analysing and writing papers, based on your own scientific creativity and initiative and a unique long-term dataset. Your personal involvement in the long-term project will also include seasonal field work: nest searching and checks during spring and summer, nest video surveillance, sampling of raptor nestlings, as well as combining analyses of transmitter tags, transcriptomic and life history data. Both field work and analyses are very demanding, so genuinely enjoying both is essential, as are previous experience and ambition to push boundaries. We seek a highly motivated student with a MSc degree or equivalent in a relevant field (e.g. animal behaviour, behavioural ecology, population ecology, evolutionary ecology, wildlife -omics, ornithology, parasitology) who wants to conquer the scientific world while working with the coolest birds possible. Organisational skills, knowledge on hot topics in ecology and evolution, and overflowing with own ideas in these fields are indispensable. The ideal candidate will be able to work both independently and as part of a multidisciplinary team, will have experience in statistics and/or bioinformatics and excellent spoken and written English.

WHAT WE OFFER YOU: A stipend of 1250 Euro for one year –time for you to crystalize, write up, submit and receive funding for your own PhD project, together with us. Doing homework and having solid pre-formed ideas for action, fitting to past efforts, existing infrastructure and/or unexplored gaps, will make this process much more efficient. Once the funding is granted you will start a 3-year PhD position (salary 65% 13 TV-L) including many training opportunities.

The student will be supervised by Nayden Chakarov and Oliver Krüger. Our department is the oldest of its kind in Germany and currently hosts seven principal investigators, ten postdocs, and 20 PhD students from over ten different countries working on related topics in behaviour, ecology, and evolution. It offers a stimulating international environment and an excellent research infrastructure. The working language is English. Bielefeld is a city of 333,000 inhabitants, having an odd blend of big city flair with pockets of quiet, simple rural life and easy access to the Teutoburger Forest for hiking and other outdoor pursuits.

WHEN: As soon as possible. The field season starts in March and optimally then you will already have a good plan and collect data for your own project.

HOW TO APPLY: Please send as a single PDF file (i) your CV, (ii) a 1-2-page letter of motivation including a statement of your research experience and how it fits the specific project, (iii) a 1-2 page research proposal, including ideas what specifically you might want to ask and discover over the next 3-5 years and why it would deserve investment and (iv) the contact details of three referees to: nayden.chakarov@uni-bielefeld.de. Review of applications will begin upon arrival. For further information, please see the webpage or contact Nayden Chakarov via email.

The University of Bielefeld is an equal opportunity employer. We particularly welcome applications from women and handicapped people. Given equal suitability, qualifications and professional achievement, women and handicapped people will be given preference, unless particular circumstances apply.