

Research technician position

A research technician position is available on a wildlife disease research project based in Kruger National Park, South Africa. The project, led by Dr. Vanessa Ezenwa (Yale University, USA) investigates interactions between gastrointestinal worms and bovine tuberculosis in African buffalo using experimental and cross-sectional studies. The technician will join a collaborative team of scientists with interests spanning wildlife disease, animal ecology, veterinary medicine, parasitology, microbiology, and immunology. Position details are described below. Salary will be commensurate with previous experience. Recent graduates who want to gain additional experience before applying to graduate school are particularly encouraged to apply. Opportunities for independent research towards a graduate degree are also available.

To apply, submit the following documents to Dr. Vanessa Ezenwa (vanessa.ezenwa@yale.edu): 1) Cover letter stating why you are interested in the position; 2) CV; and 3) two letters of recommendation emailed directly from your references. Applications will be accepted starting immediately until the position is filled.

Position details:

Location: Kruger National Park

Start date: May 16, 2022

Period of employment: 1 year with possibility of extension for up to 3 years

Essential duties:

- Coordinate the collection, storage, and processing of animal samples.
- Contribute to field work, including collecting behavioral data, blood samples, fecal samples, and age and condition measurements of buffalo.
- Contribute to lab work, including conducting worm egg counts and larval cultures on fecal samples, performing blood cell counts, immunological assays, and DNA/RNA extractions.
- Data entry and organization
- Communicate with the project PI (Ezenwa) through regular meetings and ad hoc meetings with team members and collaborators, as needed

Essential skills:

- Strong laboratory skills, including experience with one or more of the following techniques: microscopy, ELISA, DNA/RNA extraction, PCR
- Attention to detail
- Strong organizational, communication, and problem-solving skills
- Interest and experience living in a remote setting
- Independent, resourceful, and reliable

Qualifications:

- 4-year Veterinary Technology degree, BSc, or equivalent degree in a laboratory-based science (e.g., microbiology, immunology, virology, parasitology).
- Interest in wildlife disease