

UAE RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS AY17-18

POSITION DESCRIPTION

POSITION TITLE:

RESEARCH ASSISTANT: FALCON GENOMICS

RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE:

FALCON GENOME PROJECT

FACULTY NAME & TITLE:

YOUSSEF IDAGHDOUR, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY

RESEARCH PROJECT DESCRIPTION (200 WORDS)

Saker (*Falco cherrug*), Gyr (*Falco rusticolus*) and Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*) falcons are emblematic birds and are considered a cultural symbol in the United Arab Emirates. This project will focus on the development of genetic resources for these species by taking advantage of the recent advances in genome sequencing methodologies and state-of-the-art genetic facilities at NYUAD to study the genetic make-up of falcons and support conservation programs in the UAE and elsewhere. The program will support the training of a Research Assistant who will process biological samples and develop genetic tools and markers that will subsequently be tested and used to perform genetic profiling of falcons. These genetic resources will be made available to falconers in the UAE and will be used to characterize the levels of genetic variation of falcons, genetic fingerprinting of individual birds, hybrid status identification, molecular sexing, paternity testing among several other applications. The successful applicant will be trained in sample collection and processing and genomic techniques in our well-equipped facilities. There is scope for the successful candidate to eventually pursue his/her own research interests within the area of genetics.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE POSITION (BULLET POINTS)

- Take a lead role in the experimental part of the project
- Collect and process biological samples
- Laboratory preparation and processing of samples for genome sequencing
- Quality control and processing of sequencing data with other member of the lab
- Take part of the experimental and analytical training sessions in the lab
- Development of falcon-specific tools for subsequent genetic profiling
- Work in team environment and write internal reports
- Weekly meetings with the PI and Laboratory Manager

ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS:

BSc in Biology with experience in basic molecular techniques

PREFERRED EXPERIENCE / SKILLS:

MSc in Biology or Molecular Biology. Experience in PCR and DNA analysis.

APPLICANTS TO PROVIDE:

1. Statement of interest in the position
2. Transcript of degree(s)
3. CV
4. Two letters of recommendation