

My CareerHub SERT project adverts for projects that can count as placements

Placement opportunity title

Staff name(s):	Anita Diaz
Project title:	Picos SERT: Montane Wildlife Conservation in the Picos de Europa National Park, Spain
Project location:	Picos de Europa National Park, Spain
Project time (month):	The project will be for two weeks (1 week field work) in July

Description

Brief project description

This project will investigate some key ways in which understanding the effect of environmental change on the ecological interactions between, plants, invertebrates, birds and mammals can inform the conservation of alpine heathlands and forest ecosystems. The Picos de Europa National Park is outstanding in terms of its high diversity of species and is also a particularly important Spanish stronghold for two high conservation value species that use alpine heaths and forests - Capercaillie (big rare birds!) and Brown Bear. This expedition will work in collaboration with the University of Leon, Spain and with Bird Life International to investigate the following two specific questions:

1) What factors affect the value of montane habitats for Capercaillie, Brown Bear and other wild species? Here we will investigate the effect of tree cover, grazing by deer and human management such as cutting on plant and invertebrate communities and consider how this may affect habitat suitability for other species. We will consider both direct and indirect effects. For example bilberry plants are directly important to both species as shoots are eaten by Capercaillie and the fruit are eaten by Brown Bear. Indirect effects include the availability of animal dung as habitat for insects that are food for these two species and the knock on effects of plant communities on insect abundance.

2) What are the long-lasting ecological effects of mining for metal ores? The Picos National Park has a long history of metal mining and although new mining can no longer occur, there are areas where old mine workings are still

close to the surface. Here we will investigate a site at Covadonga and test for differences in the plant communities of contaminated areas compared to uncontaminated areas and how this may affect translocation of potentially toxic metals further up the food chain including to cattle. We will bring plant samples back to analyse at BU.

Student groups this opportunity is likely to most suit:

Ecology & Wildlife Conservation, Biological Sciences, Environmental Sciences, Geography. Please note, this project requires at least moderate fitness as will involve walking in mountains. It also needs you to be willing to camp in mountain campsites (BU will provide tents and cooking facilities) which are beautiful but sometimes get rained on (!) and to generally be happy to muck in and be a great team player!

How much will it cost?

The full cost of the trip (including flights, transport in Spain, accommodation and food) is expected to be approximately £450 per person. This does not include travel costs to the UK airport (students will be expected to make their own way there). It will probably be Stansted airport.

Where will this occur?

In the Picos National Park, northern Spain. Transport will be by minibuses driven by the staff mentors.

When will this occur?

The project will be for two weeks (1 week field work) in the second half of July.

How many days placement will this count as?

The SERT will count as a two week placement as will include some additional follow-up work including producing presentations, videos and reports.

Please contact Anita Diaz to discuss if you wish further details.

How many student places are available?

14

How to apply or find out more information

Please sign up for the opportunity by sending CV and letter with your motivation **before 12th December 09:00 hours** to – Anita Diaz

adiaz@bournemouth.ac.uk

Deadline for application

12th December 09:00 hours

Late applications may be considered if any places remain by contacting Anita Diaz