



Department of Statistical Sciences

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PhD and MSc bursaries in quantitative ecology

The newly formed centre for Statistics in Ecology, Environment and Conservation (SEEC) at the University of Cape Town (UCT) has a limited number of PhD and MSc bursaries available for projects starting in 2014. We are looking for students with a background in biology or environmental science with a strong quantitative (statistical or mathematical) angle or statistics students with a strong interest in biology or environmental science.

Possible subjects for study include:

- analysis of climatic time-series using state-space models
- climate change effects on bird populations or distributions
- structured decision analysis in ecosystem-based conservation management

We are also open to discuss your own project ideas within the broad area of statistical ecology and conservation management.

SEEC is a newly formed research centre that includes faculty members from UCT's Department of Statistical Science and Department of Biological Sciences. We are interested in research at the intersection between statistics and biology / environmental science. Some of our current projects include methods for estimating trends from time-series data, using occupancy models to examine bird range dynamics, modelling the effects of various drivers on penguin populations, decision making in ecosystem-based management, methods for analysing camera trap data of large carnivores, wildlife demography, machine learning algorithms for analysing environmental data.

MSc bursaries are R 75'000.- per year for two years; PhD bursaries are R 120'000.- per year for three years.

To apply, please send us an application letter explaining your motivation to join SEEC, your CV including a list of publications and/or conference presentations, transcripts, copy of MSc thesis (if applying for a PhD bursary) and names (and contact details) of two academics who have taught, supervised or worked alongside you. Please send your application to Sue Kuyper (Sue.Kuyper@uct.ac.za) by 23 February 2014.

For more information, please contact Res Altwegg (Res.Altwegg@uct.ac.za).

The University of Cape Town reserves the right to: disqualify ineligible, incomplete, inappropriate and/or late applications, and to change the conditions of award or to make no awards at all.