

MSc opportunity in Savanna ecophysiology at Stellenbosch University

A German BMBF-funded MSc position is available through Professor Guy Midgley in the Department of Botany and Zoology, Stellenbosch University. This position is tenable for two years (2015-2016) and carries a value of R60,000/annum, with full running cost and equipment support. The project will contribute to the understanding of carbon and water fluxes in Savanna ecosystems. The work will be carried out at field sites at the Grootfontein Agricultural Research Development Institute near Middelburg, and near the Phalaborwa SAEON Ndlovu node (in the Kruger Park). The fieldwork will consist of vegetation surveys to quantify vegetation structure, and measurements of leaf and shoot-level photosynthesis and transpiration on selected woody plant species in different seasons, in order to determine environmental controls on photosynthesis and transpiration. The data will also be used in improving mechanistic models of savanna structure and function, through collaboration with post-doctoral staff.

We are looking for a dedicated, enthusiastic and motivated student to do this work. You will need to have a grounding in plant photosynthetic and water relations, and be willing and able to work in the field for several days per month under typical sub-tropical South African field conditions. Preference will be given to applicants with an Honours degree with above a 65% grade average.

Please direct all enquiries to Guy Midgley, at gfmidgley@sun.ac.za. For your application to be considered, you will need to include an academic transcript, CV and a few paragraphs describing your plant physiological grounding in your application letter. The bursary is limited to South African citizens or permanent residents.

Applications will not be accepted after January 31 2015