



Position Announcement:

Research Associate in Applied Genetics

Field Projects International (FPI; fieldprojects.org), in partnership with the Inkaterra Association (ITA; inkaterra.com), announces an opening for an experienced molecular ecologist to carry out molecular field research programs and oversee operation of the [Green Lab](#), a genetics field laboratory located in the Peruvian Amazon Rainforest. Ideal candidates will be fluent in both English and Spanish, have prior training in molecular research, including the application of genomic techniques, have prior success obtaining research grants, and be able to problem solve and work independently. Previous tropical research experience is not required. We seek an ambitious colleague who will compliment and enhance our ongoing research programs, facilitate publication of research outcomes, and contribute to field science outreach efforts in lowland Amazonia.

This is a full-time, in-residence position for one year, at the Inkaterra Guides Field Station, near Puerto Maldonado, Peru. Internal research funds are provided for ongoing research projects at the Green Lab. Lodging and food will be covered. Travel reimbursement will be provided for one round-trip ticket after successful completion of a 1-month review and training period. This is an all-expenses paid research-residency and is not a salaried position; however, opportunities for teaching field genetics training programs and overseeing research internship programs will occur throughout the year and compensation is provided for all teaching efforts within these programs.

The genetic sciences are at the core of wildlife research and conservation biology today, but the vast majority of genetics research is accomplished only in high-earning countries. For years, FPI has been involved in large-scale sample collection programs in Peru, followed by relentless work to transport samples to outside labs for data analysis. Innumerable delays, significant effort, and large amounts of money are involved in analyzing biological samples this way. Further, there is a substantial loss of opportunity for professional growth and advancement to bright and ambitious local researchers. We hope to combat this imbalance through the implementation of the Green Lab Initiative. In collaboration with ITA, the first Green Lab in Peru will be outfitted with field-friendly technology that offers everything from on-site DNA isolation to sequencing and analysis. Our hope is for 1) local researchers to gain access to comparable tools for DNA barcoding, phylogenetic, population genetic, and genomic methods as foreign researchers; 2) cut costs and improve efficiency for field scientists; 3) provide real-time molecular services to local conservationists involved in wildlife rescue and reintroduction, and biodiversity monitoring and preservation. The scientist hired for this position will be integral to the success of this initiative and be committed to both research and education.

This position is ideal for early- to mid-career candidates with a Ph.D., or equivalent training, in a relevant field, with an interest in having unique access to a molecular laboratory in the Amazon rainforest. Start dates for this position are either May 1, 2018 (preferred) or July 16, 2018.

TO APPLY: IDEAL APPLICANTS WILL HAVE A PH.D., OR COMPARABLE TRAINING, IN A RELEVANT FIELD. INTERESTED CANDIDATES SHOULD SUBMIT BY EMAIL A COVER LETTER, CURRICULUM VITAE, TWO TO FOUR SIGNIFICANT PUBLICATIONS, AND THE NAMES AND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THREE REFERENCES TO DR. GIDEON ERKENSWICK AT GREENLAB@FIELDPROJECTS.ORG. POSITION IS OPEN UNTIL FILLED; REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS WILL BEGIN ON MARCH 16, 2018.

FPI is an Equal Opportunity organization and is committed to diversity in its leadership, employees, interns, and volunteers.