

I am recruiting **one fully funded PhD student** to be part of a collaborative and inclusive research community. Our approach to science focusses on working as a team, developing project goals, and hypotheses with our academic and non-academic partners. Preference is for a May or September 2027 start date and applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

I am recruiting a motivated PhD student to work on ideas related to the spatial-social interface in caribou, bats, or other possible systems that might fit the questions you have. The successful student will have some flexibility in their research program, but the primary focus will be

testing hypotheses related to the spatial-social interface. For example, testing the costs and benefits of animal movement through space as a collective group is an important question at the forefront of the spatial-social interface. We are also interested in integrating questions about population dynamics with the spatial-social interface, for example, how and why social and spatial traits might have different effects on fitness. You can read more about the spatial-social interface [here](#).

Training Opportunity: depending on student interests, projects can be tailored for training and skill development for employment within, or outside of, academia. (1) Fundamentals: critical thinking, experimental design, and communicating science; (2) Field skills: capturing, tagging, and tracking bats, sampling for parasites, tracking caribou and sampling plants in caribou habitat; (3) Analytical skills, including programming statistical models, geospatial analyses, and social network analyses; (4) Contributing to lab and departmental culture through inclusive and equitable learning, teaching, and collaboration.

What we offer: Student projects focus on the behavioural, spatial, movement, and disease ecology of caribou and bats and we prioritize collaboration and interdisciplinary projects. Within the lab, we have established a supportive framework based on collaboration and multi-level mentorship. This is facilitated by dedicated post-docs and upper-year graduate students, all of whom share a passion for research and cultivating a healthy and supportive lab environment. Despite being a relatively new program, our lab boasts a diverse team of high-quality researchers and I encourage you to [contact](#) current graduate students for more details on the lab.

Qualifications:

- (1) A passion for, and curiosity about, the natural world and the things that live in it.
- (2) An interest and commitment to fieldwork. Given that fieldwork is expensive and can be a barrier to entry for students in ecology and evolution, I will work with students on an individual basis to ensure all needs are met. I also provide additional “gear stipends” to students to cover costs of specialized fieldwork gear (e.g., hiking boots). Though not necessary, Ontario class G drivers licence (or equivalent) is an asset for fieldwork – please include this information in your application.
- (3) Quantitative experiences, including programming in R, geospatial analyses, and social network analyses are a necessary for a PhD student entering my lab. Given these skills can take years to develop, there will be opportunities to learn, but a baseline skillset is needed.

The University of Guelph and The Department of Integrative Biology are committed to [diversity and inclusivity](#). As a person at the intersection of multiple privileged groups, it is my responsibility to actively leverage this privilege to advocate for my peers and work towards sharing undue burdens placed on members of equity-seeking groups, lifting them when possible, and creating space that does not exist for these groups.

To apply, please email your application as a single pdf document to Dr. Quinn Webber (qwebber@uoguelph.ca), including a cover letter describing your interest in the spatial-social interface and how you might contribute to developing exciting ideas in this field, your background, and goals, and a current CV with the names and contact information of two references. Preference will be given to Canadian students, but exceptional international students will be considered for the position.

Thank you for your interest!

