**Job Description:** Estación Biológica de Doñana (EBD)

| **Role**: Research Assistant  **Website**: [www.ebd.csic.es](http://www.ebd.csic.es/inicio) | **Location**:  Estación Biológica de Doñana CSIC (EBD)  C/ Américo Vespucio, s/n, 41092, Isla de la Cartuja, Sevilla |
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**Company Description**:

Doñana Biological Station is a public research institute belonging to the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, CSIC, within the area of Natural Resources. Our primary mission is to carry out multidisciplinary research at the highest level, directed at understanding, from an evolutionary point of view, how biodiversity is generated, how it is maintained and damaged, in addition to the consequences of its loss and the chances of their preservation and restoration. Furthermore, it also promotes the transfer of scientific knowledge to society. The institute consists of a main building in Seville, which has an innovative Stable Isotope Laboratory (LIE) and two field stations, the ICTS Doñana Biological Reserve, (Doñana Natural Area, Almonte, Huelva) and Roblehondo Field Station (Parque Natural de las Sierras de Cazorla, Segura and Las Villas).

**Role Description:**

This project is called *Ungulate impacts on terrestrial and wetland, Atlantic ecosystems*. The work will be developed in the framework of projects RESILGRAZE and WATERlands. Our work within these two projects aims at providing data, criteria, tools and participation models for the adaptive co-management of pastoral systems where co-existing, domestic and wild ungulates feed on terrestrial/wetland vegetation at natural and restored ecosystems across Europe’s Atlantic areas (primarily, Doñana National Park and Serra do Xistral; but also Cairngorms, Scotland, and Lauwersmeer, the Netherlands). For this purpose, the project team will undertake an integrated evaluation of the long-term impact of ungulate grazing on a range of ecosystem components (vegetation, soil, invertebrates), accompanied by field observations on space utilisation by ungulates (wild: wild boar, red deer and fallow deer; livestock: horse and cattle) and on the impact of herbivory in the production, diversity recruitment of woody and herbaceous vegetation. We also run, for the fourth year, a field experiment on the effect of climate change (i.e., a 30% decrease in rainfall) and herbivory on plant productivity. The training program will combine field and/or desk (computer) work aimed at obtaining estimates of animal distribution and foraging behaviour, based on field surveys, camera-trap images, and GPS data. They will also have the chance to participate in the field survey of the aforementioned ecosystem components (in particular, soil processes and/or invertebrate diversity) and in the lab activities necessary to process the samples obtained. The allocation to field+lab and desk work will be adjusted to the logistic and mobility constraints of the field work (e.g., some areas are closed during the breeding period of endangered birds), as well as the time period and specific interest of the grantees.

**Required Applicant Profile:**

EBD are seeking graduates in animal behaviour, biology, botany, ecology, zoology or related fields to carry out a 13-week internship at their research institute in Seville, Spain. Participants will be encouraged to attend weekly seminars hosted by the institute. Spanish language skills are not necessary but. would be an asset.