**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/ Americo 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).

**Tasks to be performed:**

Maintaining and promoting ecological connectivity of natural areas is essential for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem resilience. It is, therefore, important to understand how ongoing changes in land use and climate, derived from human activities, are impacting connectivity among habitats and wildlife populations. This is especially important in areas with high ecological value, such as Doñana Natural Area, which, being a biodiversity hotspot, a refuge for threatened species, and a crucial stop-over area for migratory birds, are especially vulnerable to global-change effects. Thus, this project aims to assess the current state of connectivity for different types of species and ecosystems in the area and predict the impact that climate and land-use changes will have on wildlife connectivity in the future. These results will serve as a basis for understanding, planning, and prioritising where and how conservation and restoration efforts will be applied in order to enhance ecological connectivity, and thus, biodiversity resilience in the Doñana area.

In order to contribute to the fulfilment of the project objectives the student will participate, and be trained, in the following research activities:

1. Literature search and gathering of information relevant to ecological connectivity of key species and ecosystems in the area.
2. Spatial analyses and statistics using GIS tools and Software like R-Cran.
3. Interpretation of results and identification of future lines of action to improve ecological connectivity.
4. Preparation and submission of a scientific manuscript on the conclusions of the project.

The work will be mostly carried out at the Doñana Biological Station (EBD-CSIC) in the city of Seville (Spain), although the stay might be also complemented with some field trips to the Doñana Natural Area and surroundings.

The project is framed within the Horizon Europe project NaturaConnect, and may become the starting point of future collaborations with, not only researchers at EBD-CSIC, but also other members of the NaturaConnect consortium (https://naturaconnect.eu/).

**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.