**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).

**Role Description**:

This project is called *Where the wild things could go: assessing the expansion potential of wolf in southern Spain.* While the planet is undoubtedly facing a biodiversity crisis, some continents have nonetheless seen a wildlife comeback in recent decades, which inspired researchers and practitioners to develop the concepts and approaches for rewilding. In this context, we propose to work on a hypothetical scenario where the wolf could recolonize the South of the Iberian Peninsula from the northern populations where it is currently found. Concretely, this project aims to assess the connectivity of the landscapes for the wolf and their potential impact on the local biodiversity if and when it was to migrate and settle in areas where it is currently absent. The student will participate, and be trained, in the following research activities:

1. Literature search and revision to gather existent qualitative and quantitative data on movement for wolves focused on Mediterranean landscapes. We will need to know for instance which habitats wolves can cross, how fast, which features they avoid, what is their mortality when crossing roads, etc.
2. Literature search to collect qualitative and quantitative data in order to build a species interaction network centred around the wolf, that is for example competition, predation.
3. Identification of knowledge gaps and future lines of research for connectivity in the area.
4. Data analysis in R and interpretation of results.
5. Preparation of a scientific manuscript on factors affecting wolf connectivity in Mediterranean ecosystems

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 Nature Reserve. The project is framed within the Horizon Europe project NaturaConnect in which the supervisors are involved (<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.