

## WANTED!

### Expenses-Paid Volunteer Field Assistants: Swebeswebe & Telperion Baboon Projects, South Africa

#### Position description

We are looking to recruit four volunteer field assistants to join our research teams studying wild chacma baboons in the Limpopo (Swebeswebe Wildlife Estate) or Mpumalanga (Telperion Nature Reserve) Provinces of South Africa. These positions are likely to suit persons interested in acquiring data collection skills prior to undertaking graduate research. Field assistants will learn to identify wild groups of chacma baboon, will collect a range of behavioural and ecological data, and will contribute to the general running of the research camp. Applicants should be aware that the study sites are home to dangerous animals, including leopards and snakes, and that field work is physically challenging and somewhat socially isolated. For more details visit: [www.richmcfarland.com/fieldsite](http://www.richmcfarland.com/fieldsite). These are collaborative projects run by researchers from Nottingham Trent University (Richard McFarland & Chris Young), the University of Zurich (Tony Weingrill), the University of Calgary (Tyler Bonnell), the University of Lethbridge (Peter Henzi & Louise Barrett) and UNISA (Leslie Brown). **These are full-time positions are not suited to those enrolled in a university degree/diploma.**



#### Qualifications & experience

All applicants must be in possession of an undergraduate qualification in a relevant discipline (e.g., zoology, environmental science, ecology, psychology, anthropology, nature conservation). Previous field experience is desirable, but not essential. Applicants should be physically fit and resilient. Days in the field are long and physically challenging, and you will be living in relatively remote field conditions. Working with baboons can be particularly challenging, with researchers required to walk up to ~20km/day across rocky terrain. You will typically work four-five days per week to the tune of approximately 50h/week. Proven ability to work and live amicably alongside others under field conditions is advantageous. All applicants should be able to speak English. Possession of a full driver's license, with manual/stick competence, is desirable. **Volunteers will all live on the reserve for the duration of their placement.**

#### Support provided

We will provide **free lodging** at the research camps (Swebeswebe pictured right), equipped with full electricity, internet, hot running water, showers, kitchen, beds etc. We will also provide each volunteer with a **ZAR 4,000/month** contribution toward their food and general subsistence. Volunteers may be required to share a room. Limited funds are available to reimburse the travel expenses for all researchers who complete their full placement. All volunteers will need to cover their own medical and travel insurance and should arrive equipped with hiking boots, a backpack, and bush clothing.



#### Term of appointments

Start date: 2 posts: ASAP, 2 posts: ~ June 2025  
Duration: 9-12 months

#### Applying for the position

Please email ([richard.mcfarland@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:richard.mcfarland@ntu.ac.uk)) a copy of your CV, degree certificates, driver's license, the names and contact details of two recent referees (at least one from an academic tutor), and a one-page cover letter describing your interests in the project, experience, aspirations, and availability. **Generic 'copy-and-paste' applications will not be considered. Application deadline: 31<sup>st</sup> January (or until positions are filled).** Due to the high volume of applications, we may only respond to those applicants invited for interview.