

The Faculty of Sciences of the University of Antwerp is seeking to fill a **full-time/part-time (100%)** vacancy in the Department of Biology for a **doctoral student in the area of Behavioural Ecology**.

## **Behavioural ecological perspectives on time-keeping in the wild - timing, performance, and response to environmental change**

Temporal coordination is of fundamental importance to guarantee that the timing of seasonal and daily activities becomes synchronized with the external environment, orchestrated by internal biological clocks. Yet individuals differ in their timing of activities and can be categorized depending on their preferred onset of daily activities in the morning. Individual variation in so called chronotypes could have significant implications on the way how individuals synchronize their activities with 'temporal aspects' of their environment. Timing could hence determine how well an individual is able to match reproduction with the peak in food abundance. Individuals that vary in their preferred onset of daily activities may also differ in the time-point of optimal performance during a day, which could affect their efficiency in exploiting predictable food sources.

Using behavioural-ecological field experiments, you will focus on the consequences of individual variation in timing in wild blue and great tits. You will explore the relationship between animal personality and chronotypes, as both are concerned with consistency in behaviour over time and across contexts. These results will significantly contribute to our understanding of the adaptive significance of timing in the wild.

- You prepare a doctorate thesis in the field of Behavioural Ecology and Ecophysiology.
- You study the consequences of individual variation in timing in the wild.
- You explore the relationships between animal personality, chronotypes, and performance.
- You contribute to teaching and research in Biology/Behavioural Ecology.
- The successful applicant will join the Behavioural Ecology and Ecophysiology Researchgroup, a young, dynamic and stimulating group of researchers working on all 4 major aspects of animal behaviour (causation, development, function, evolution).

### **Profile and requirements**

- You hold a master degree in Biology or an equivalent degree in life sciences.
- You are an enthusiastic and motivated student with a strong interest in Behavioral Biology and Ecology, who likes working in the field. Preferentially you have already experience in fieldwork, but this is not essential.
- You have good organizational, writing and presentation skills and should be able to work well both independently and in a team environment.

### **We offer**

- A doctoral scholarship for a period of two years, with the possibility of renewal for a further two-year period after positive evaluation; the start date of the scholarship is **February 1<sup>st</sup> 2020**; a gross monthly grant ranging from € 2.447,20 to € 2.596,27;

### **How to apply?**

- Applications may only be [submitted online](#), until the closing date **15 December 2019**.
- A pre-selection will be made from amongst the submitted applications. The remainder of the selection procedure is specific to the position and will be determined by the selection panel.
- More information about the application form can be obtained from [vacatures@uantwerpen.be](mailto:vacatures@uantwerpen.be). For questions about the profile and the description of duties, please contact Prof. Wendt Müller – [wendt.muller@uantwerpen.be](mailto:wendt.muller@uantwerpen.be) or prof. Marcel Eens – [marcel.eens@uantwerpen.be](mailto:marcel.eens@uantwerpen.be).