



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY

Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture

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Graduate Research Assistant (M.S.): Ecology and conservation of Alligator Snapping Turtles (*Macrochelys temminckii*)

Position

The Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture at Stephen F. Austin State University has a graduate assistantship for a master's student to begin in spring 2020. The position is funded for 2.5 years (\$24,000/year), and will be based in the research group of Dr. Christopher Schalk (<https://cmschalk.weebly.com/>). Although the State of Texas does not allow for direct tuition waivers, out-of-state students awarded assistantships only pay the Texas resident tuition rate.

Research Focus

The project will evaluate the current distribution and occupancy of Alligator Snapping Turtles (*Macrochelys temminckii*) in Texas in relation to watershed and landscape factors and determine their degree of mercury biomagnification in aquatic food webs.

Desired Qualifications

Individuals with research interests in aquatic ecology, landscape ecology, food-web ecology, and conservation ecology are especially encouraged to apply. Candidates must hold a Bachelor's degree by the start date in ecology, wildlife ecology, or related field. Demonstrated experience capturing and handling turtles, and driving a boat/trailer is required. The ability to conduct rigorous fieldwork under extreme conditions (e.g., heat, humidity, alligators) will be necessary. Excellent communication and time-management skills, a strong work ethic and attention to detail also are essential. The candidate must also have a valid driver's license.

About the Area/University

SFA is located in Nacogdoches, Texas, with more than 13,000 undergraduate and graduate students enrolled. The Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture (<http://atcofa.sfasu.edu/>) has a diverse faculty with strengths in forestry, ecology, wildlife ecology, environmental science and spatial science. Nacogdoches is a city with more than 33,000 residents. It recently was designated as the Top Small City in Texas according to Cities Journal.

Deadline

Review of applications will start August 15, 2019 and continue until the position is filled. The candidate is expected to begin in January 2020.

Please send only one PDF file with a cover letter outlining your research interests and experiences, GPA, GRE scores (if available), a CV, contact details of three references and an example of your writing to Dr. Christopher Schalk (schalkc@sfasu.edu).