

Student Opportunities

We are often looking for motivated students with interest in animal cognition and social behaviour. We offer the possibility of Master's projects and internships working either at the Wolf Science Center (WSC) and Clever Dog Lab (CDL) around Vienna, or at our field-sites in Morocco, where we observe free-ranging dogs, and Italy, where we study wild wolves.

In general, collecting data for your master's or internships will require between 5 and 7 months (depending a bit on the field-site as well). Typically, you will be working alongside a PhD or Postdoc in our team, helping to carry out a study within the larger framework of our projects. If you are required to write a thesis for your university, we will set out a timeline to ensure that you finish your thesis in time. This requires that you are working on your introduction and methods before you arrive (with our support) and that you start video-coding the data as you collect it. You will be given support to carry out the stats when all data is in, and you will likely complete your discussion writing either at the end of your stay with us or from your home university. You will also be required to give two presentations: one at the start of your project, presenting the idea/concept of your study, and one at the end of your study when you have results. We also encourage you to actively participate in discussions on domestication related topics at our weekly meetings (online for those that are in the field), as well as present a scientific paper.

Applications procedures differ a bit for each location. But in all cases please send us: your letter of motivation, CV, and two reference letters.

In your motivation letter, please clearly state:

1. If you are applying for a position, which should result in a Master thesis, Bachelor thesis, or if it is a 'no thesis' internship.
2. When you would like to start, how long you would like to stay (minimum is 6 months) and how flexible your start date is.

In the following sections we will describe in a bit more detail the opportunities in the different field-sites.

When we have openings, these are normally circulated on the following social media channels as well as on our website:

<https://twitter.com/DomLabVienna>

<https://www.facebook.com/freerangingdog>

https://www.instagram.com/free_ranging_dogs_project/

<https://domesticationlab.wordpress.com>

WOLF SCIENCE CENTRE INTERNSHIPS

Scientific internships are available to work at the Wolf Science Centre – either to do research for your Master thesis or as internship. The WSC ‘student house’ is available in a village not far from the Centre (shared rooms, contribution to rent required).

We are currently investigating 3 ‘macro themes’ the effects of domestication on

1. ‘physical cognition’
2. ‘human-directed behaviours’,
3. ‘conspecific interactions’.

Please let us know, in your motivation letter, which of these is more aligned with your interests and as much as possible, we will take this into consideration.

We have two deadlines per year for WSC positions:

1st of July: for internship positions starting the **following January** (co-enrollment needs to be done with the Veterinary Medicine University of Vienna by September)

1st December: for internship positions **starting in June** (co-enrollment needs to be done with the Veterinary Medicine University of Vienna by March)

Please send your complete applications by these dates to: **internships@wolfscience.at**.

We will evaluate the candidates and send our response by the end of the application month (end of July, end of December). Please be aware that we have limited positions and usually quite a lot of applications, so do not be disappointed if you are not selected.

CLEVER DOG LAB, VIENNA

In Vienna we conduct studies with pet dogs at the Clever Dog Lab at the Veterinary Medicine University of Vienna. Interns are welcome to join our team. Students are required to find their own accommodation, although student dorms close to the university are normally a possibility.

We are currently working on a number of topics with pet dogs in particular:

1. Cooperation with conspecifics and humans
2. Social learning from humans and conspecifics
3. Physical cognition

Please send your complete applications to: Gwendolyn.Wirobski@vetmeduni.ac.at and Friederike.Range@vetmeduni.ac.at .

As well as specifying whether you are interested in an internship or MA thesis and please let us know in your motivation letter, which of these topics is more aligned with your interests and as much as possible, we will take this into consideration. We consider applications all year round, however due to high demand, we cannot guarantee acceptance.

FREE-RANGING DOGS IN MOROCCO

We have an ongoing field-site in the outskirts of Agadir, in Morocco, where we study various aspects of the life of free-ranging dogs, using both observational and experimental methods. The work is pretty physically demanding, since you will be outdoors from early morning and for most of the day, walking under the sun, following dogs. You will also help to conduct experimental tests early in the morning when fewer people are around (making it a bit easier to test dogs with little interference). We provide shared accommodation (shared rooms), and the house normally hosts between 4 and 8 people. This aspect of the internship may also be a bit intense, since we both work and live together, so please consider it carefully when thinking if this could be a possibility for you. You need to cover your own extra medical and travel insurance and have a rabies vaccination. We accept both internship and MA thesis applications that can be conducted within the framework of the running projects.

Currently the main topics we are investigating in Morocco are:

1. Social learning dynamics involving tests both with conspecific and humans
2. Personality testing relating to sociality and neophobia in puppies and adults
3. The pack dynamics and social relationships of the dogs in our study area.

As well as specifying whether you are interested in an internship or MA thesis, also let us know, in your motivation letter, which of these topics is more aligned with your interests and as much as possible, we will take this into consideration. We normally post ads on social media when we are actively searching for students. However, we welcome spontaneous applications.

Please send your complete applications to giulia.cimarelli@vetmeduni.ac.at and sarah.marshall@vetmeduni.ac.at, we will let you know if there is an open position.

WILD WOLVES IN ITALY

We are currently conducting studies with wild wolves in the Apennines regions of Italy (Tuscany, Emilia Romagna, Umbria). Each year, we accept 3 (sometimes 4) students, to help with the project. The field data collection season lasts 7 months, from mid-January to end of August each year, and we **normally interview students in November to start the following January**. The students need to find their own main accommodation in the area of study, although every other week we will provide shared accommodation when working together in the field. We normally post ads on social media when we are actively searching for students. However, we welcome spontaneous applications.

Masters and interns are welcome to contact us for further information:

martina.lazzaroni@vetmeduni.ac.at and sarah.marshall@vetmeduni.ac.at