



FACULTY OF VETERINARY SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY TROPICAL DISEASES

20 February 2012

Attention: MSc Research Candidates

The Centre for Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases at the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) in Sandringham, Johannesburg and Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases (DVTD) at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, Onderstepoort, is looking for a committed MSc student to join a research project studying *Bacillus anthracis*, the causative agent of anthrax. In this project we would like to investigate the role vertebrate, invertebrate as well as bacteriophages play on the diseases cycle of anthrax.

MSc Research Project

The work will involve establishing an insect colony, wet bench bacteriology and molecular biological techniques at NICD, as well as some field work in Kruger National Park and Northern Cape regions. The first two objectives of this project will be conducted at NICD, namely to establish whether anthrax is spread externally and/or internally by infecting insect vector with green fluorescent protein Sterne strain and also whether amoeba acts as vector of anthrax. The rest of the objectives involve field work with laboratory work conducted at NICD namely collection of invertebrate hosts and soils from environment where anthrax occur in South Africa as well as identification and characterization of bacteriophages from invertebrate host and soil.

Requirements

It will be necessary for the student to work at NICD in Sandringham, Johannesburg from April 2012. The candidate should preferably have a Bachelor and Honours degree in Sciences. Any experience in entomology, bacteriology, and/or molecular biology is an asset. Applicants should be South African citizens, have a valid driver's license and be available to start on the project in April 2012.

Included: Stipend (bursary of approximately R80 000) and research expenses

Time frame: 2 years

Closing date: 9 March 2012

Send motivation letter and CV to Dr Henriette van Heerden (details below) **on or before 9 March 2012.**

Contact: Henriette van Heerden; Tel +27 12 529 8265; email: henriette.vanheerden@up.ac.za

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