

Position	M.S. Graduate Research Assistantship – Southern Flying Squirrel Genomics
Institution	Kansas State University
Location	Manhattan, Kansas
Websites	www.k-state.edu/hopelab www.ahlerswildlifelab.com
Salary	\$27,300/ year plus tuition, benefits.
Start Date	Projected start is summer 2024 (preferred) for field season, followed by program enrollment in Fall 2024, review of applications will begin immediately, and will continue until position is filled. We are keen to speak with suitable prospective students before the deadline for application to the K-state Graduate School which is 15 th December 2023.
Description	<p>The Hope and Ahlers Labs at Kansas State University are recruiting a M.S. student to perform field sampling and genetic/genomic analyses of southern flying squirrels (<i>Glaucomys volans</i>) with a focus on populations in Kansas. This project is funded through the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. Southern flying squirrels are currently listed as a “Species in Need of Conservation” in Kansas though we have no knowledge of their genetic diversity, effective population size, genetic connectivity, or distinctness compared with flying squirrels elsewhere through their range. The student is expected to contribute to field sampling of squirrels across two summers using Sherman live traps to collect samples for genetics. The research focus for this position is to perform a genomic assessment of tissue samples collected from the field and obtained on loan from existing museum archives. A willingness to learn and implement bioinformatics for processing and analyzing genomic data is essential. Funding is in place to start as a Research Assistant at Kansas State University in May 2024 (and turnover to a M.S. position for Fall 2024 semester).</p> <p>Kansas State University is in Manhattan, Kansas – in the middle of the beautiful Flint Hills ecoregion, representing one of the largest remaining tracts of tallgrass prairie in North America. There will be an extensive field component for this project that will occur in deciduous forests of eastern Kansas. The student will be required to lead a team of technicians and students to live trap and sample tissues from southern flying squirrels on both public and private property.</p>

The student will be supported by a 12-month graduate research assistantship with institutional support through 2 years. This position will be co-advised by Andrew Hope and Adam Ahlers.

Qualifications

Prospective students should preferably have experience with genetic lab techniques and/or bioinformatics for processing and analyzing genomic sequence data, along with experience using R. Willingness to combine theory and practice across the fields of ecology and evolution is expected. Applicants without prior experience with manipulating genomic data will be expected to learn these skills.

We are dedicated to equal opportunity in the workplace and to building diverse teams. We particularly encourage women and individuals from under-represented groups to apply.

Contact Person

Prospective students should e-mail Andrew Hope (ahope@ksu.edu) with a statement of interest and include a CV containing contact information for three potential references.