RESEARCH FOUNDATION CUNY

Careers at RFCUNY
Job Openings

Job Title	Postdoctoral Fellow
PVN ID	HC-2508-006959
Category	Postdoctoral
Location	HUNTER COLLEGE
Department	Anthropology
Status	Full Time
Annual Salary	$75,000.00 - $75,000.00
Hour(s) a Week	35
Closing Date	Oct 10, 2025 (Or Until Filled)

General Description

The Research Foundation of the City University of New York (RF CUNY) invites applications for a full-time postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Jessica Rothman's Wildlife Ecology and Nutrition laboratory at Hunter College as part of a NASA funded project entitled "Mega impacts of Megaherbivores: unraveling the role of rhino restoration in fire-savannah dynamics". The successful candidate will conduct field research related to rhino reintroductions in Zimbabwe, South Africa and Uganda in line with grant activities, as well as use existing data. The position is expected to last for 3 years as per the grant award, but is initially funded for 6 months.

Other Duties

- Liaise with management authorities across field sites in South Africa (Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park - HiP), Uganda (Ajai Wildlife Reserve – Ajai WR) and Zimbabwe (Gonarezhou National Park – Gonarezhou NP) for technical and logistical support.
- Develop data collection protocols and lead fieldwork at HiP, Ajai WR and Gonarezhou NP - specifically relating to herbaceous species identification and Disk Pasture Meter (DPM) measurements for biomass estimates of the herbaceous layer.
- Collect and analyse 1) fine-scale GPS measurements of rhino movements and 2) fine-scale information on herbaceous biomass consumption by rhinos in Ajai WR and Gonarezhou NP.
- Combine previously collected datasets with new data on vegetation composition and link with rhino space use and fire dynamics in HiP, Ajai WR and Gonarhezou NP.
- Build models to predict herbaceous vegetation biomass across filed sites using field data and remote sensing tools and relate these to differences in rhino densities and fire dynamics.
- Conduct experimental fire burns in collaboration with park managers to explore the impacts of rhinos (via biomass consumption) on fire dynamics (e.g., burn intensity and heterogeneity).
- Track landscape-scale fire patterns and indices over time using various remote sensing tools and combine with rhino space use.

- Write up all results for publication in peer-reviewed journals and present annually at NASA biodiversity conference.
- Other duties as assigned.

Qualifications

- PhD research on large mammal ecology, preferably in Africa
- At least 1 year conducting research at remote field sites, preferably in African savannahs
- Quantitative skills and experience using R programming
- A willingess to work under harsh field conditions in remote locations