

Careers at RFCUNY Job Openings

Job Title Senior Research Associate

PVN ID HC-2508-006960

Category Postdoctoral

Location HUNTER COLLEGE

Department Anthropology

Status Full Time

Annual Salary \$90,000.00 - \$90,000.00

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 Research Associate 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 and use remote sensing tools to assess the before-and-after eosystem effects 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 1 year as per the grant award, but is initially funded for 6 months.

Other Duties

- Use pre-existing field datasets from Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park, South Africa, to examine how rhinos create and maintain grazing lawns along a productivity (rainfall) gradient.
- Map the distribution of grazing lawns using the above datasets to understand the relationship between rhinos and their habitat combining data with remote sensing imagery at different spatial and spectral scales (30 m and 60 m resolution).
- Provide technical and logistical support for field work in Uganda and Zimbabwe, which includes tracking rhino movement and feeding ecology of individual rhinos.
- Use NASA databases including PlantScope/Harmonized Landsat-Sentinel, to link rhino movement and feeding ecology with changes in grass biomass from field collected data in the first year.
- Procure a large database with information on ungulate communities and densities (specifically white rhino) in reserves across South Africa.
- Link the above database on rhino densities across South African reserves with remotely sensed indices of fire intensity and grass-layer heterogeneity.
- Contribute to analyses and manuscript preparation for publication in peer-reviewed journals.
- Other duties as assigned.

Qualifications

- PhD research on large mammal ecology
- At least 2 years of postdoctoral experience conducting large mammal ecological research
- Prior experience using remote sensing techniques
- Prior experience publishing in peer-reviewed journals