

# PAID RESEARCH INTERN

## The project

A long-term project began in 2019 to investigate the impact of roads on hedgehogs in the UK, led by Nottingham Trent University and part-funded by the People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES). PTES is a UK conservation charity created in 1977 that helps protect some of the world's most threatened wildlife species and habitats through research, grant-aid, educational programmes and wildlife surveys.

Hedgehogs have recently been declared 'vulnerable' to extinction on the IUCN Red List for Britain's Mammals and have shown ongoing population declines in recent years. Simultaneously, thousands of hedgehogs are killed on UK roads every year and populations face fragmentation from roads. As a result, the population declines and impacts of roads are often thought to be linked.

As part of the [PTES Wildlife Conservation Internship Programme](#), we're looking for interns to assist this real-world, solution-orientated project. You would help investigate whether tunnels underneath roads are a viable conservation option to protect hedgehogs amidst a growing road network. This includes if hedgehogs use tunnels, how often and which type of tunnels are best for promoting habitat connectivity and reducing road mortality.

## What will I be doing?

Working under our Natural England license, this exciting and varied role involves hands-on population surveys by walking transects to find hedgehogs, measuring biometrics (such as sex, body weight) and marking them for individual identification. We will also gather fine-scale movement data by attaching a small, lightweight GPS tag to a subset of adults and using radio-telemetry to monitor them. Camera traps have been placed inside the road tunnels and you will help the team quantify tunnel use from the camera footage. Additional tasks include public awareness and daily data entry.

There are opportunities to conduct this work at several sites around the UK including nature reserves, SSSIs and urban areas in Glasgow, Peterborough, Kent, Essex, Stafford and/or York. As many sites will be surveyed as possible (each for 3 weeks) between April and October (inclusive) in 2021 and/or 2022. It is possible to conduct this internship part-time to work around other commitments.

## What can I gain?

We will provide practical training and experience in several research methods that are fundamental in conservation, such as radio-tracking and camera-trapping, and that are transferable to a huge variety of species. This unique opportunity offers experience in a professional research environment, collaborative teamwork and animal handling.

The PTES Wildlife Conservation Internship Programme will provide funding not exceeding £5,000 to successful applicants to cover all travel, living and project costs.

## Eligibility/criteria

- You must be a recent (within three years) bachelor or masters graduate, obtaining a first or 2:1 at a UK university
  - You must be keen to stay in the conservation sector, either in research or practical conservation (or both)
  - You must be comfortable with working at night and potentially alone
  - You must have a full UK driving licence
- See the [internship guidelines](#) for further details.

## How do I apply?

An [internship grant application](#) must be submitted to [grants@ptes.org](mailto:grants@ptes.org), accompanied with a CV, reference from your course tutor and letter of support from the host institute (Nottingham Trent University).

If you are interested in applying, email [lauren.moore@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:lauren.moore@ntu.ac.uk) for assistance with the application form and a letter of support.

Applications will be accepted until suitable candidates are found.