

M.S. Graduate Student Opportunity (Deadline 20 March)

Bioacoustics & Disease Ecology of Lowland Leopard Frogs

Arizona State University – Polytechnic Campus (Mesa, AZ)

We invite applications for a highly motivated M.S. student to join a collaborative wildlife ecology research team at Arizona State University to study calling phenology and pathogen prevalence in Lowland Leopard Frogs (*Lithobates yavapaiensis*) along the San Pedro River in southern Arizona.

This project integrates passive acoustic monitoring, visual encounter surveys, habitat assessment, and molecular methods (qPCR) to relate calling activity to environmental conditions and pathogen prevalence (Ranavirus and *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*). The research is collaborative with academic partners, the Salt River Project, and Arizona Game and Fish Department. The student will be co-mentored by faculty Drs. [Bateman](#) and [Bechtel](#) at ASU's Polytechnic campus.



Qualifications

Required:

- Bachelor's degree in wildlife biology, ecology, environmental/conservation science, or related field
- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- Solid quantitative reasoning and data management skills
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively
- Willingness to conduct fieldwork in desert environments and aquatic systems
- Ability to drive a personal vehicle to field sites (mileage reimbursed; high-clearance vehicle required)

Preferred:

- Experience with bioacoustic analysis
- Experience handling and identifying herpetofauna or aquatic vertebrates
- Laboratory experience or strong interest in molecular techniques
- Prior independent or collaborative research experience

The student must be able to begin in person in Mesa, AZ by **May 18, 2026**.

Funding & Enrollment

This is a Graduate Services Assistant (GSA) appointment:

- 20 hours/week during the academic year
- 40 hours/week during summer
- Annual stipend: \$35,000

This appointment does not include tuition remission or health insurance benefits. Tuition estimator: <https://tuition.asu.edu/cost/tuition-estimator>

Students will enroll in the M.S. program in Applied Biological Sciences (Natural Resource and Wildlife Ecology concentration) in the College of Integrative Sciences and Arts.

Application Instructions

Applicants must first be selected for the GSA position before submitting their ASU graduate application.

To apply for the GSA position, email a single PDF with your cover letter, CV, contact for 3 references, and unofficial transcripts in that order (name file as your Lastname_Firstname) to:

- Dr. Heather Bateman (heather.l.bateman@asu.edu)
- Dr. Molly Bechtel (molly.becht@asu.edu)

Application deadline: **March 20, 2026.**

Commitment to Inclusive Excellence

ASU is committed to access, excellence, and impact consistent with the Charter: ASU is measured not by whom it excludes, but by whom it includes and how they succeed; advancing research and discovery of public value; and assuming fundamental responsibility for the economic, social, cultural, and overall health of the communities it serves.

Learn more: <https://newamericanuniversity.asu.edu/about/asu-charter-mission-and-goals>

We value students who can bring creative, diverse perspectives to our group.