

## **PhD Graduate Assistantships – thermal tolerance and evaluating the conservation status of threatened mussels in Texas**

2 PhD assistantships are available under the supervision of Dr. Charles Randklev and Dr. Roel Lopez in the Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute and Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. The first assistantship will focus on testing lethal and sublethal temperature tolerances for three threatened mussel species from west Texas. The second assistantship will focus on evaluating the conservation status of mussels throughout the state.

Funding for both projects are from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

A full stipend (grant funded Research Assistantship) for 3 years will be provided. PhD Student Salary: ~\$35,000/yr (tuition + salary).

Start date: Spring 2020

Last date to apply: September 15, 2019

More information about the PhD program in the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries:  
<https://wfsc.tamu.edu>.

More information about mussel research program at NRI-TAMU:  
<https://dallas.tamu.edu/research/mussels/>  
<http://www.tamumussels.com>

### Qualifications

Required: BS in Biology or related field; previous research experience in aquatic ecology and ecotoxicology; strong aptitude for research, strong analytical and oral and written scientific communication skills, attention to detail, ability to work independently and as a team; background/experience in GIS; valid driver's license; valid passport and ability to travel to Mexico; strong swimmer and comfortable in the water/snorkeling; interest in pursuing a career in academia or research; GPA >3.0; GRE scores > 60<sup>th</sup> percentile (153 verbal and 156 quantitative).

Preferred: MS in Biology or related field; research experience with freshwater mussels (unionids); experience in ecotoxicology, ecophysiology, and/or landscape modeling; SCUBA certified and some dive experience; track record in publications and/or conference presentations; GPA >3.5; GRE scores >70<sup>th</sup> percentile (156 verbal and 159 quantitative).

If interested, please email a single PDF document to **BOTH** Dr. Randklev (crandklev@ag.tamu.edu) **AND** Dr. Lopez (roel.lopez@ag.tamu.edu) that contains: (1) a letter of interest describing your qualifications, experience and background, (2) your CV, (3) GRE scores, (4) GPA and unofficial transcripts, and (5) contact information for 3 academic/research references. Feel free to contact us for more information about the graduate programs, our research, and more specifics about the project.