



Wedge-snouted lizard at the study site in Namibia

ERELL INSTITUTE

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE FOR UNDERGRADUATES (IRES), NAMIBIA

Erell Institute is pleased to announce a research experience and cultural exchange program designed for Native American undergraduate students.



Burchell's Zebra roam in moist areas along the Kuiseb River

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Our IRES program is designed to provide students interested in ecology and natural science with an intensive, hands-on international experience in field research focused on the behavior and ecology of Namib Desert lizards. Program participants will engage in all aspects of an independent research project, including the design, data collection, analysis, write-up, and presentation. The program structure will include:

- Pre-trip participation in our virtual research group during the Fall 2011 semester for project planning and trip preparation
- Trip phase—5-weeks of data collection in the Namib Desert during December 2011/January 2012
 - Field work will be supplemented with lectures, seminars, and field trips to enhance student understanding of local natural history, culture, and conservation
- Post-trip participation in our virtual research group (Spring 2012 semester) for data analysis and to prepare project reports and presentations
- Project culmination—presentations and final project report at end of Spring 2012 semester.



Elsita and Ndeshi looking for lizards on the gravel plains

****Each student will identify a mentor at their home institution that will provide local assistance for their IRES experience****

AWARDS

- 4 undergraduate students will be selected to participate; we will be joined in the field with undergraduate collaborators from Namibia and 2 biologists from the Gobabeb Training and Research Centre, the field station where we will live and work in Namibia.
- For each selected student, we will cover the costs of:
 - Travel to and from Gobabeb from the student's US location
 - Visa and health insurance for Namibia trip
 - Research expenses, including food, lodging, and station fees while in Namibia
- \$3500 stipend



Dunes, as seen from the gravel plains. The Gobabeb field station is just to the left of the pictured dune.



Black-backed jackals frequent the areas around the field station, though are more often heard than seen. Gemsbok are common desert-dwellers that can be seen in the vicinity.



FIELD SITE IN NAMIBIA

We will fly overseas as a group, landing in Windhoek, Namibia. From there we will drive to the Gobabeb Training and Research Centre, situated in the Namib-Naukluft National Park. The Namib Desert is hyper-arid and consists of 3 habitats which converge at the field station: vast, rolling sand dunes, flat, open gravel plains, and the seasonally flowing Kuiseb River and its watershed that divides the dunes and the plains. The national park is the largest game park in Africa and the 4th largest in the world. The plants and animals are very diverse, and many found here are found nowhere else in the world. The students will be housed together in a cabin with its own kitchen and bathroom. The station contains air-conditioned labs, a library, computer facilities, and a laundry room, as well as a swimming pool and basketball court for outdoor recreation. The field station is an active, vibrant facility. There will be ample opportunity for the students to interact with visiting and local students, scientists, and visitors.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Applications are due 30 April 2011. For more information contact: Doug Eifler (785-424-3397; deifler@haskell.edu) or Maria Eifler (785-393-0602; meifler@erellinstitute.org)