## GENERAL INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program sponsor:</th>
<th>Princeton Environmental Institute</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Position number:</td>
<td>B2MAR</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Project title:</strong></td>
<td>'Go To The Ant Thou Sluggard, Consider Her Ways and Be Wise': Buffelgrass seed preferences, predation and dispersal in Kenya home range by Messor harvester ants.</td>
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<td>Organization/research group:</td>
<td>Mpala Research Centre</td>
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<td><strong>Primary location(s) of internship:</strong></td>
<td>Nanyuki, Kenya (Mpala Research Centre)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional cities and/or countries to be visited (if applicable):</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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**Note:** If this internship is located in a country with an International SOS risk rating of High or Extreme, final candidates must participate in a travel review process overseen by the Travel Oversight Group (TOG), and obtain safety guidance prior to departure. The University reserves the right to revoke support and funding for travel at any time there has been a significant deterioration in the safety and security conditions surrounding travel arrangements, or in the sector of the country, or countries, where travel is to occur.

## FACULTY SPONSOR(s)/HOST INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Name(s):</strong></th>
<th>Dino J. Martins</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>University Department(s):</strong></td>
<td>Ecology and Evolution Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>E-mail:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dmartins@princeton.edu">dmartins@princeton.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Phone:</td>
<td>+254733673493</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website:</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mpala.org">www.mpala.org</a></td>
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## INTERNSHIP/RESEARCH PROJECT INFORMATION

### Internship/project description:

'Go To The Ant Thou Sluggard, Consider Her Ways and Be Wise': Buffelgrass seed preferences, predation and dispersal in Kenya home range by Messor harvester ants. Following in the ancient footsteps of King Solomon's observations, this project will look at the seed collection, dispersal and behaviour of harvester ants in Kenya. Fieldwork will be conducted at the Mpala Research Centre and involve mapping harvester ant nests, collecting basic behavioral and observational data and working with the Buffel Grass team at six sites located along a north-south gradient on Mpala. The project will involve visiting savannah sites to track and monitor ant nests during the summer, learning some basic identification of grasses and insects, working with a diverse team of Kenyan and international students and field researchers.

### Student's role and responsibilities:

The student will participate in fieldwork and work alongside a team from Mpala. Tasks will include mapping of nests using a GPS, following specific trails of harvester ants, watching and observation of trails, noting species diversity of insects and grasses, entering data into spreadsheets as well as some basic lab work to process and sort samples at the microscope.
Internship/project learning objectives:
Passion for fieldwork and ecology are the main requirements as well as patience. The student will gain useful insights into ecology and especially into interactions between species. They will learn how to make detailed observations, collect data and start to synthesize and collate this data as part of hypothesis-driven research. Skills the student will gain include in-depth appreciation of natural history, behavioral ecology, methods in field biology, identification of insects and grasses, use of a GPS and mapping, basic data entry and analysis.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Academic background and any course pre-requisites:
None, but some basic biology would be useful.

Technical skills:
Passion for fieldwork, hiking, being outdoors, watching animals.

Additional training(s):
n/a

Equipment:
A laptop would be useful

Physical demands:
Should be prepared to spend at least 3-4 hrs. in the field, daily.

Language abilities/competencies (if applicable): n/a

Additional information about the internship/project:
Mpala will provide support in the form of research assistants, transport to and from field sites. Student will need to complete health and safety for animal workers (IACUC) lab safety trainings prior to the start of the internship. Students will also need to consult UHS for any travel medical requirements/suggestions. Visas and research passes/permits are required for entry to Kenya.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS (if applicable)
Visa(s) required? [ ] Yes [ ] No
Research permit/pass required? [ ] Yes [ ] No
Immunizations required? [ ] Yes [ ] No

INTERNERNSHIP/PROJECT SUPERVISOR(S)

Name and title of primary supervisor: Dino J. Martins
Email: dmartins@princeton.edu Phone:

Name and title of additional supervisor, if applicable: n/a
E-mail: Phone:

PROGRAM DATES AND FUNDING INFORMATION
Weekly Stipend: $75 (plus int'l travel award) Number of Positions Available: 1
Tentative Start Date (mm/dd/yyyy): June Number of Weeks: 8
Tentative End Date (mm/dd/yyyy): August
Note: PEI funding is for full-time work, 35 hours per week minimum, and for a period of at least 8 continuous weeks.

Application deadline: January 11, 2019