



Durrell Institute of  
Conservation and Ecology



## **PhD: Status and conservation of the grass snake and slow-worm in Jersey**

***Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE), School of Anthropology and Conservation, University of Kent***

**Supervisors:** Prof Richard Griffiths, Dr. Jim Groombridge (DICE), Ms Nina Cornish (Department of Environment, States of Jersey) and Dr John Wilkinson (Amphibian and Reptile Conservation).

**Duration:** 3 years

**Type:** PhD Biodiversity Management

**This project will be funded by The States of Jersey Department of the Environment. Funding is available to cover Home/EU tuition fees plus stipend. All other research costs will be required.**

The Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology, in collaboration with the States of Jersey Department of the Environment, is offering an exciting PhD opportunity for a motivated graduate. This research project aims to study the status and conservation of the free-living populations of grass snakes and slow-worms in Jersey, British Isles. The project will focus on the distribution, population assessment, and conservation status of both species. These issues will be addressed through a combination of field surveys of populations and habitat use, population and spatial modelling, predator/prey relationships and genetic analyses. This project will be based at the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology at the University of Kent, led by Professor Richard Griffiths, with periods of several weeks spent in Jersey for sampling/fieldwork.

**Application deadline:** 10 May 2013

**Start Date:** September 2013

**Academic requirements:** Applicants should have a First or Upper Second Class UK honours degree, a MSc or (or equivalent experience) in a relevant discipline such as conservation, genetics and/or wildlife management, and field experience of working with reptiles in Britain (particularly grass snakes). An aptitude for molecular laboratory techniques, GIS and statistical modelling would be advantageous.

**Funding:** Available funding will cover the tuition fees (at the UK/EU rate only) and stipend for this 3-year project. All other funding for laboratory and fieldwork is required.

**How to apply:** Please send a CV (maximum 3-pages) and a covering letter (maximum two pages) by email to Professor Richard Griffiths ([R.A.Griffiths@kent.ac.uk](mailto:R.A.Griffiths@kent.ac.uk)), from whom further information can be obtained. Deadline for applications is 4.00 pm on **10 May 2013**. Interviews will be held at the University of Kent on **17-18 June 2013**, with a view to the successful applicant starting in September 2013.

**Keywords:** conservation, ecology, habitat modelling, conservation genetics.