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| **Project Title** | **Project summary** | **Project detail** | **Selection criteria** | **Outcomes for the intern** |
| **Estimating Body Mass in Mesozoic Mammals**  **Supervisor:**  Elsa Panciroli | This project explores estimations of body mass in extinct mammals from the time of dinosaurs, the Mesozoic. It uses a dataset of measurements from extant mammals, and formulae established for calculating body mass based on those measurements, to test hypotheses about the limb / dentary ratios in extinct species, particularly in one of the earliest-diverging and ecologically diverse mammaliaform clades. | In order to accomplish this, the intern will:   * Develop hypotheses about the body proportions of extinct mammal groups * Explore existing methods for body mass estimation * Gather limb bone, dentary, molar row and tooth measurements from the literature. * Study scans of fossil specimens in the UK, including those in the museum * Explore the datasets, using simple analyses to test hypotheses on ratios and proportions * Write a report of the project for funders * If desired, contribute to writing up the results for publication in a scientific journal * Full training will be given | Essential   * Excellent attention to detail * An organised and methodical approach * Strong self-motivation and ability to work independently without close supervision and as part of a team * Good communication skills   **Desirable**   * Strong interest in working in evolutionary biology/ ecology/palaeosciences * Familiarity with Microsoft Office applications, in particular Microsoft Word and Excel | * Gaining skills in compiling and using large datasets to test scientific hypotheses * Familiarity with literature on body mass estimation and Mesozoic mammals * Co-authorship on any publication(s) to result from the work * Particularly valuable for students interested in a PhD/career in research |