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**THESIS**

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| **TITLE** | Swimming behaviour and within day activity pattern of white spotted eagle rays in Burgers’ Zoo |
| RESEARCH QUESTION | The main goal of this research will be to find out the differences in swimming behaviour during day and night time. |
| SUPERVISOR | Johan Schrama; Max Janse (Burgers’ Zoo) |
| LOCATION | Burgers’ Zoo, Arnhem |
| PERIOD | Start September 2014 |
| LINK FOR MORE INFORMATION LINK IS MADE BY AFI SECRETARIAT!  |

**MORE INFORMATION (if available)**

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| SHORT DESCRIPTION |
| A group of white spotted eagle rays (*Aetobatus narinari*) are kept at Burgers’ Zoo, Arnhem for nearly 15 years. This species grows up to 2 meter wingspan, where some of our females have a wingspan of nearly 1.8 m. This group has had numerous offspring in the last 5 years and has been subject to different scientific researches like nutrition, genetics, reproduction, parasitic infections and medical treatments. These researches have often been conducted in collaboration with university students. A next research will start in September on the swimming behaviour of these fishes. The main goal of this research will be to find out the differences in swimming behaviour during day and night time. Since the display has an artificial day/night rhythm ethological research can be conducted in both periods. This research has to be done by two students, since evening sampling (or even one or two nights). Both students will work on the same subject with separate research goals. |

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| RESEARCH AIM/ SCOPE |
| * Identify different types of swimming activities in these rays.
* Quantify this within day patterns.
* Measuring/performing behavioural observations
* Statistical analysis of data (repeated measurements analysis)
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| REQUIREMENTS |
| * Affinity with organismal biology/fish/and fish behaviour
* Prepared to work at night…
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| OTHER INFORMATION |
| This topic requires 2 students (one candidate is already present), because of evening and night observations. Each student will work on a separate topic. |