

YUSUF TALEB

KELOWNA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA • EMAIL: YOSOFBASEM@GMAIL.COM • PHONE: +1 250 258 4213

EDUCATION

The University of British Columbia, Okanagan, Kelowna, BC Expected Apr 2027
BSc, Honours in Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology; Minor in Data Science

African Leadership Academy, Johannesburg, South Africa Aug 2021 – Jun 2023
African Diploma

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Phenotypic evolution; macroevolution; phylogenetics; behavioural ecology; paleobiology; public understanding of science; philosophy and history of science.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Honours Thesis Researcher Sep 2026 – Present
Ecological & Conservation Genomics Lab, UBC Okanagan Kelowna, BC
Supervisor: Dr. Michael A. Russello

- Extend the IURA project by testing genomic patterns across additional populations and investigating candidate genes or biological pathways associated with deep spawning.

Undergraduate Research Assistant (IURA) May 2026 – Sep 2026
Ecological & Conservation Genomics Lab, UBC Okanagan Kelowna, BC
Supervisor: Dr. Michael A. Russello

- Analysed low-coverage whole-genome resequencing (lcWGS) data from stream-, shore-, and deep-spawning populations to infer population history, genomic differentiation, and candidate regions associated with deep spawning in kokanee.
- Presented the project at the UBC Science Okanagan Undergraduate Research Awards Symposium.

Undergraduate Research Assistant Jan 2026 – Apr 2026
The Hodges Lab, UBC Okanagan Kelowna, BC
Supervisor: Dr. Karen E. Hodges

- Studied the effects of breeding on diet composition in Western Screech-Owls (*Megascops kennicottii*).

Field Technician May 2025 – Aug 2025
The Hodges Lab, UBC Okanagan Okanagan Valley, BC

- Deployed autonomous recording units and thermal loggers at 35+ riparian and upland sites and supported 120+ bird point counts under the SOSCP protocol.
- Co-surveyed 200+ vegetation plots following British Columbia provincial vegetation-survey standards.

Lab Technician Nov 2024 – Apr 2025
The Hodges Lab, The University of British Columbia Kelowna, BC
• Analysed autonomous recording unit data with BirdNET Analyzer and annotated owl detections.

Lab Technician Jan 2024 – Apr 2024
The Hodges Lab, UBC Okanagan Kelowna, BC

- Dissected 180 Western Screech-Owl pellets, identified prey from teeth and cranial elements, and maintained specimen records.
- Classified 40,000+ camera-trap images for the Skeena Predator Project, recording animal species and behaviours.

Research Scholar Jun 2022 – Aug 2022
Pioneer Academics Remote

Supervisor: Professor Catherine Cardelus, Colgate University

- Produced a conservation-biology review on the anthropogenic effects on migratory species and the mitigation of light pollution.

Research Intern Jun 2022 – Aug 2022
University of California, Santa Cruz Remote

- Reviewed 20+ hours of camera-trap footage and analysed behaviour of African carnivores at experimental marking sites in Botswana's Okavango Delta, focusing on African wild dog behaviors for occupancy analysis and research purposes.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Princeton EEB Scholar — Sep 2026

Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Princeton University

Second Place, Most Accessible Poster — *UBC Science Okanagan* Sep 2026

Dean's Scholar — *The University of British Columbia* May 2026

The Faculty of Science International Undergraduate Research Award — *UBC Science Okanagan* May 2026

The Faculty of Science International Student Award — Dec 2025
UBC Science Okanagan

Dean's List — *The University of British Columbia* May 2025

Dean's List — *The University of British Columbia* May 2024

Rise Fellow — *Schmidt Futures* Sep 2022

TEACHING AND MENTORING

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant Sep 2026 – Present
The University of British Columbia Kelowna, BC

- Support students in BIOL 202: Introduction to Biostatistics in statistical analysis, data visualization, and reproducible workflows using R and RStudio.

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant Sep 2025 – Dec 2025
The University of British Columbia Kelowna, BC

- Supported instruction for BIOL 202: Introduction to Biostatistics, assisting students with R and RStudio scripting for data visualization and analysis.
- Helped troubleshoot code, clarify statistical concepts, and assess assignments using course rubrics.

Mentor Oct 2023 – Apr 2024
The Earth Foundation Remote

- Guided tens of teams developing environmental project proposals and provided tailored one-to-one feedback to finalist teams.

Facilitator Nov 2022 – Dec 2022
Logicae Science Cairo, Egypt / Hybrid

- Mentored 20 participants, evaluated research and entrepreneurship presentations to select finalists.

LEADERSHIP, SERVICE, AND OUTREACH

Founder and Executive Director

Apr 2025 – Present

Sirb

Remote / Egypt

- Designed and led a selective, fully Arabic-language biodiversity and conservation education program for Egyptian youth aged 14–18.
- Developed an accessible curriculum spanning biodiversity, evolution, ecosystems, and conservation; coordinated seminars, guest speakers, and team-based action projects.
- Directed recruitment, onboarding, operations, partnerships, and communications; selected 25 participants from 470+ applicants across 14 Egyptian governorates for the inaugural program.

Student Senator, Faculty of Science

Apr 2026 – Present

The University of British Columbia Okanagan Senate

Kelowna, BC

- Represent Faculty of Science students in academic governance and serve on the Senate Curriculum Committee.
- Review major academic and credential changes and exercise delegated authority over minor program, course, credential, transcript-notation, and discontinuation proposals.

Forum Technical Reviewer

Mar 2025 – Apr 2025

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Remote

- Assessed and scored 25 session proposals for the IUCN World Conservation Congress against strategic themes, biodiversity targets, scientific standards, and conflict-of-interest requirements.

Fellow, Leadership Academy

Jun 2026 – Aug 2026

New Roots Institute

Remote

- Completed a six-week academy focused on food systems transformation through the lenses of environment, policy, advocacy, health, community, journalism, and innovation.

Ocean Bridge Ambassador

Feb 2025 – May 2025

Ocean Wise

Hybrid

- Collaborated with a national youth network on ocean and freshwater conservation and developed Sirb as an Ocean Action Project.

Arabic Interpreter

Nov 2023 – Apr 2024

Negative Heritage Project, The University of British Columbia

Kelowna, BC

- Interpreted Arabic–English interviews examining digital reconstruction of the Triumphal Arch of Palmyra after the Syrian Civil War.

Library Manager

May 2023 – Jun 2023

African Leadership Academy

Johannesburg, South Africa

- Led an eight-person team in establishing a hybrid library system and cataloguing 5,700+ books using Dewey Decimal Classification.

SKILLS AND LANGUAGES

Computational and research: R, RStudio, statistical analysis, data visualisation, reproducible workflows, lcWGS analysis, population genetics, and high-performance computing.

Field and laboratory: autonomous recording units, thermal loggers, BirdNET Analyzer, GPS navigation, bird point counts, vegetation surveys, camera-trap classification, and pellet dissection.

Communication and program delivery: science communication, curriculum and program design, facilitation, mentoring, public speaking, event coordination, graphic design, photography and videography, social media, and digital-asset organization.

Languages: Arabic (native); English (full professional proficiency).