



Graduate Positions in Ant Behavior and Ecology



Funded graduate positions are available in the laboratory of [Dr. Christina Kwapich](#) at the [University of Central Florida](#). Graduate students are expected to develop research questions on Florida ant fauna, conduct local field work, present their research at national and international conferences, and participate in the daily intellectual life of the laboratory and Department of Biology (fully in-person). Major research areas include ant colony organization, production ecology of seed harvesting ants, nest architecture, and myrmecophile life history. Graduate positions are fully funded through a combination of Teaching and Research Assistantships. Positions also include health insurance and tuition waivers.

Qualifications: A deep interest in organismal biology, a desire to conduct demanding field-based research in a hot and humid environment, and strong written communication skills are expected. The ability to drive and a driver's license at time of hire are required for departmental vehicles. Existing taxonomic knowledge of insects and an aptitude for animal care are strongly encouraged. Prospective PhD students must complete a BS in animal behavior, entomology, evolution and ecology, or a related field. For prospective PhD students, demonstrated research productivity is also required (a publication, undergraduate thesis, independent project summary, or MS thesis). Prospective MS students should hold a BS in one of the above subject areas and have prior experience working in a research lab or research-related field. Note: The Biology Department offers a limited number of assistantships to MS students.

Application process: Before applying, students should familiarize themselves with recent publications from the laboratory and watch posted research talks on the lab webpage. For consideration, contact Christina.Kwapich@ucf.edu with the following materials:

1. A CV listing relevant coursework, skills, work, and research experience.
2. A 1-page cover letter addressing academic and research preparation and interests, motivation for working in one of the research areas listed above (or a closely related area), and future career goals.
3. Copies of peer-reviewed publications /theses/written research products

Review of materials will continue through Nov. 15th for positions starting August of 2025. Select applicants will be interviewed over Zoom. If formally invited to apply to the Biology Graduate Program, additional application materials will be due to the university on December 1st, 2024 (<https://sciences.ucf.edu/biology/graduate/applying/>).

With best wishes,

Christina Kwapich, PhD
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