

PhD and MS positions in Ant Behavior and Ecology

Posted August 30th, 2023

PhD and MS positions are available in the laboratory of Dr. Christina Kwapich (<https://www.christinakwapich.com/>) at the University of Central Florida (<https://sciences.ucf.edu/biology/>). Graduate students are expected to develop research questions and conduct field work in Florida, present their research at national and international conferences, and participate in the daily intellectual life of the laboratory and Department of Biology. **Major research areas** in the lab include: The biology of myrmecophiles and myrmecomorphs (ant-associated crickets, spiders, beetles, etc.), comparative ant colony organization, production ecology of seed harvesting ants, and ant nest architecture. Graduate positions are fully funded through a combination of Teaching and Research Assistantships. Positions also include health insurance and tuition waivers.

Required qualifications: A deep interest in organismal biology, a desire to conduct demanding fieldwork in a hot and humid environment, and strong written communication skills are expected. **For MS positions:** A BS in animal behavior, entomology, evolution and ecology, or a related field is required. **For PhD positions:** A BS in one of the above fields and demonstrated research productivity (publication or MS thesis) are required.

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, students should contact Dr. Kwapich at Christina.Kwapich@ucf.edu with the following materials:

- A CV listing relevant coursework, skills, work, and research experience.
- A 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.

Review of applications will begin immediately for positions starting August of 2024. If invited to formally apply to the graduate program, additional application materials will be due December 1st (<https://sciences.ucf.edu/biology/graduate/applying/>).