



## Funded PhD scholarship: The impacts of pesticide use on bee behaviour and colony persistence

**Project description:** We are seeking a highly motivated and enthusiastic student for a PhD position investigating the impacts of non-insecticide pesticides on bee behaviour and colony persistence. Pesticides are an integral part of modern farming, but there are also concerns about their impacts on the environment and in particular their implications for insect pollinators and the services they provide to both crops and wild plants. This project will aim to investigate whether there are any impacts of non-insecticide pesticides (herbicides and fungicides that are commonly used in Ireland) on bee behaviour and colony persistence. It will involve experimental and survey work in both the lab and the field.

This position will form part of the PROTECTS (Protecting Terrestrial Ecosystems Through Sustainable Pesticide Use) project, funded by the Irish Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine under their Research Funding programme. The successful candidate will join the dynamic and interdisciplinary PROTECTS team consisting of researchers from Trinity College Dublin, Maynooth University, Dublin City University, Teagasc and University College Dublin. PROTECTS will provide baseline information in an Irish context to build towards mitigating the effects of pesticide use on terrestrial ecosystem services, focussing on pollinators and soils. Our findings will help to ensure that pesticides can be used safely while protecting wildlife, health and the environment, both in Ireland and internationally.

**Supervisor:** The PhD student will be registered at University College Dublin, supervised by Dr Dara Stanley (UCD) and Professor Jane Stout (TCD), and work as part of a collaborative team within the PROTECTS project.

**Duration:** The student will register for a 4-year structured doctoral degree programme at UCD that includes transferrable skills and professional training ([www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies/](http://www.ucd.ie/graduatestudies/))

**Award:** A tax free stipend of €18,000 per year plus EU registration fees (*subject to confirmation of funding*). Non-EU students are welcome to apply but would require additional funds to cover the fee difference (difference currently about €6500 pa).

**Entry requirements:** Applicants should hold a minimum of a 2.1 in a relevant degree programme (Ecology, Botany, Zoology, Environmental Science, Agricultural Science or related discipline). Previous research experience and a full driver's license are an advantage. Candidates whose first degree was not taught through English must meet UCD's Minimum English Language Requirements (<http://www.ucd.ie/registry/admissions/elr.html>)

**Expected start date:** September 2018

**How to apply:** Please send a) a cover letter detailing interest and motivations for the project and what you feel you could bring to it (max 1 page), b) a CV detailing research experience and contact details of two academic/scientific references (max 2 pages) and c) an example of scientific writing (e.g. an essay, manuscript, lab report or publication etc) to Dr Stanley ([darastanley@gmail.com](mailto:darastanley@gmail.com)). Please save and send all documents together as one pdf file.

**Closing date for applications:** 18<sup>th</sup> June 2018

For more information and for lab publications see [www.stanleyecologylab.com](http://www.stanleyecologylab.com)