

## Funded PhD scholarship: The impacts of weather and climate on pollination services provided by bees

**Project description:** Bees, and other pollinators, are essential for both the production of crops and the reproduction of wild plants. Global declines in pollinating insects have led to concerns over future food security. Although many studies have investigated the factors contributing to bee decline, few have focussed on the implications of these factors for the pollination services bees provide. We are seeking a highly motivated and enthusiastic student for a PhD position investigating the impacts of weather conditions and climate in Ireland on bees and the pollination services they provide to crops. This project will examine the responses of wild and managed bees to weather conditions, and assess how this may impact their behaviour and activity levels. This work will involve using both field observations and experimental manipulations, as well as RFID tagging technology.

This position will form part of the SUSPOLL (Sustainable crop pollination in a changing world) project funded by Science Foundation Ireland. The successful candidate will join a team of researchers investigating the impacts of both pesticide use and climate on pollination services to Irish crops, and predicting changes under future scenarios. Outputs from this work will have both short and longer term impacts on sustainable food production and use of our natural capital in Ireland and around Europe, as well the effectiveness environmental and conservation policy in the light of global change.

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

**Supervisor:** This position will be supervised by Dr Dara Stanley and based at University College Dublin.

**Award:** A tax free stipend of €18,500 per year plus EU registration fees. 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 representative lab publications see [www.stanleyecologylab.com](http://www.stanleyecologylab.com)