

PHD VACANCY: POLLINATION



We have a three-year, funded PhD position in our research group to work within a larger project on the enhancement of pollination services. There will be some flexibility in the PhD project, but it should involve at least a component on landscape-scale interactions between floral phenology and pollinator visitation patterns in arable and fruit crops. It would also be an option to incorporate network approaches into the analysis, to make use of the group's existing strengths in this area. The position will come with a stipend (\$25,000NZ p.a.) for living costs, tuition fees covered, and there will be funding available for research costs. The student will be based at the University of Canterbury, NZ, but working in collaboration with Drs. David Pattemore, Brad Howlett and Jan Grant from Plant & Food Research. This position is funded through a 6-year research program led by Plant & Food Research that aims to develop alternative crop pollination systems to complement managed honey bees.

Required background

The applicant must be self-motivated and passionate about science, with an honours or masters degree (involving a research component) in ecology, entomology or a related discipline. Experience in insect identification would be an advantage, as would a strong background in analysis. The start date is flexible, but the student should be able to begin by mid 2014 at the latest, to prepare for the southern-hemisphere field season beginning in September/October.

Application

Please submit a CV and cover letter describing your background, career aspirations, and why you are interested in this position. Please also provide the names of three referees who would be willing and available to provide a reference during the coming weeks.

There is no closing date, and the search will continue until a suitable candidate has been found.

To apply or for further information please contact Prof. Jason Tylianakis
(jason.tylianakis@canterbury.ac.nz)