

## Ph.D. scholarship available to study the Ecology and Evolution of Plant Sex

**Deadline: 1 March 2010**

A Ph.D. scholarship is available to study the **ecology and evolution of plant reproductive strategies and the plant-pollinator's interactions at the University of Stirling, Scotland**, in the laboratory of Dr. Mario Vallejo-Marin. The scholarship will cover tuition fees, and provide a monthly stipend for the duration of the PhD (3 years).

My lab is broadly interested in the evolutionary and ecological processes shaping the amazing diversity of plant reproductive strategies. Specific areas of research in my lab include the evolution of flower form and its relationship to pollination success in the family Solanaceae, the evolutionary consequences of variation in sexual forms within individuals for plant fitness, and the potential for rapid evolutionary change in invasive species. Work in my lab utilizes molecular and phylogenetic analyses, as well as extensive field work and experimental studies of plant-pollinator interactions. Ongoing research projects include experimental work in the **U.K., Mexico and China**, and the successful candidate is expected to actively participate in the field work component of our projects.

Further details of my lines of research and potential PhD projects available can be found at <http://www.sbes.stir.ac.uk/people/vallejo-marin> and <http://www.findaphd.com/>. However, the PhD student is expected to actively participate developing a project proposal that suits our common interests.

### Requirements

The candidate should have a good command of ecological and evolutionary principles, be familiar with statistical analysis and basic math skills, like to travel, and be comfortable with working outdoors. Previous experience in an ecology or evolution lab at either the undergraduate or Master's level will be considered a strong asset. Having an excellent grasp of statistics, basic programming skills, or experience in a molecular lab will set you apart from other candidates. The entry qualification for postgraduate studentships is a first class or upper second class honours undergraduate degree in a relevant biological subject, or an appropriate Masters degree.

### About the University of Stirling

The University of Stirling (<http://www.stir.ac.uk>) is located in central Scotland, 45 minutes by train from both Edinburgh and Glasgow. Surrounded by the beautiful Ochil Hills, it has recently been recognized by the Sunday Times as the Scottish University of the year. The School of Biological and Environmental Sciences is a vibrant and rapidly growing department where you will have the opportunity to pursue your research in a professional and supportive environment.

### How to apply

To apply please email **Dr. Mario Vallejo-Marin** ([mv9@stir.ac.uk](mailto:mv9@stir.ac.uk)) and attach a **cover letter**, your **CV** (Résumé) and the name and contact information of **two references**. Your cover letter should briefly explain why you are well suited for this position.

### Funding Notes

The studentship will be assigned on a competitive basis following an internal selection process at the School of Biological and Environmental Sciences. Candidates will compete for **one of 5 apprenticeships** and **1 NERC-quota studentship** available within the School. In addition, candidates will have the option to compete for one of **several University-wide studentships** available for the academic year starting in the Fall 2010.

The call is open for students of all nationalities. Non-UK or European Union students may apply for a University ORSAS award to cover the cost of overseas fees.