



PhD Studentship: Global patterns in species interaction networks in times of global change

Our natural world is organised into complex networks of interacting species. While climate change and habitat conversion are well known to affect the abundance and distribution of organisms, much less is known of how these factors affect the interactions among species. The LifeWebs project (www.lifewebs.net) seeks to understand broad-scale network ecology through collation and analyses of existing published and unpublished datasets. The project covers a range of terrestrial interaction network types, including insect-parasitoid, animal-parasite, plant-animal pollinator (including vertebrates), ant-plant mutualism, plant-herbivore, plant-seed disperser, insect-fungus, and host-parasite datasets. The project involves an international network of scientists and postgraduate students, led by Dr. Tom Fayle (Institute of Entomology, Biology Centre Czech Academy of Sciences, Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic, <http://www.tomfayle.com/>). There is now an opportunity to apply for a prestigious Swansea University Research Excellence PhD Scholarship to work in association with the LifeWebs project. Successful candidates will be hosted in our partnering working group Biodiversity and Health Ecology (BAH) led by Dr. Konstans Wells at Swansea University, UK (<https://www.swansea.ac.uk/bioscience/research-and-impact/biodiversity-and-animal-health-ecology/>).

CANDIDATE: The award of a Swansea University Research Excellence Scholarship is conditional upon applicants holding or achieving a first class honours degree and/or a distinction at Masters' level (or non-UK equivalent). Additional evidence of a candidate's achievements are beneficial.

APPLICATIONS: Swansea University is pleased to offer, as part of its centenary celebrations, its third cohort of fully funded Research Excellence Scholarships (SUREs) for full time doctoral study. Formal applications for PhD scholarships at the Swansea University can be made before 8th January 2020:

<https://www.jobs.ac.uk/job/BWZ436/science-swansea-university-research-excellence-scholarships-2020>

This award is open to applicants who are eligible to pay tuition fees at the Home/EU rate as identified by UKCISA fee regulations, Wales

Anticipated start date: October 2020.