



UMS
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SABAH



A Malaysian PhD studentship is available to work on

Impacts of experimental forest fragmentation and land-use change on ant communities in tropical rainforest

A highly motivated postgraduate student is sought to join a project exploring the impacts of land-use change on the ants across primary forest, logged forest, fragmented forest and oil palm plantation in Malaysian Borneo. The student will conduct field surveys for canopy and leaf litter ants, measurement of environmental variables, laboratory identification of collected ant specimens, statistical analysis of community changes, and writing of manuscripts and a thesis. The work will generate data complementing an existing long-term dataset, and will help to disentangle the impacts of habitat fragmentation and extreme climatic events on biodiversity. The position will provide the opportunity to work with the world's largest tropical forest fragmentation experiment (the Stability of Altered Ecosystems project, www.safeproject.net), with the South East Asian Rainforest Research Partnership (SEARRP), and to collaborate with researchers from multiple countries. The student will also have the opportunity to visit the laboratory of one of the supervisors in Czech Republic for a one-month study trip (flights and accommodation are fully funded for this trip).

The student will be registered at Universiti Malaysia Sabah and will be jointly supervised by Dr Kalsum Mohd Yusah (www.kalsumyusah.com) at the Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, and Dr Tom Fayle (www.tomfayle.com) at the Institute of Entomology, Biology Centre of Czech Academy of Sciences, Czech Republic. A monthly stipend of RM 2500 will be provided for the full three-year period, which is sufficient for paying university fees (RM 1925 per semester) and living costs. All field related expenses, including travel and accommodation, will be provided. This position is co-funded by SEARRP.

Required

- A master's degree.
- Interest in the ecology of insects.
- A GPA of 3.0 or above in Ecology or a related subject and an overall CGPA of 3.0 or above.
- Enthusiasm for working in the field for extended periods in challenging conditions in tropical rain forest.
- Ability to work independently.
- Some experience in the use of ecological statistical analyses.

Desirable

- Previous experience of field work.
- Research experience with insect ecology.

The **deadline for applications is June 14th 2018**, with a start date of Sep 1st 2018. To apply please send a CV, contact details for two references (we will contact referees directly for shortlisted applicants), and cover letter stating qualifications, previous work and motivation to Dr Kalsum Mohd Yusah (kalsum.myusah@gmail.com). Note that this position is available for Malaysian students only.