

## Graduate Student positions in Ant Organismal Biology, Ecology and Evolution

The laboratories of Jon Seal and Katrin Kellner at the University of Texas at Tyler are seeking up to two highly motivated graduate students (MS level) to work on NSF-funded projects on ant-microbial – environmental interactions.

**Research focus:** 1-2 highly motivated graduate students are sought to conduct research on the organismal and evolutionary biology of ants and their symbionts. We employ a variety of methods including descriptive and experimental approaches, along with biochemical, physiological, bioinformatics, molecular and microbial techniques. Projects could range from phylogeography/population genetics to functional ecology and experimental studies. There is considerable flexibility for projects within this broad theme. Preferred applicants will have earned a Bachelor's degree and exhibit equal enthusiasm for field-based work, experimentation, molecular ecology and bioinformatics. More information about our research can be found here <http://www.uttyler.edu/directory/biology/katrin.php> and here <https://www.uttyler.edu/biology/research/seal/>.

**Support:** Graduate Students will be supported by a combination of Research and Teaching Assistantships. Tuition remission scholarships are available on a competitive basis. Accepted students can expect support for two years. Teaching assistants in our program typically teach introductory biology or upper division laboratory courses (e.g., ecology or entomology).

**Qualifications:** Bachelor's degree and qualifying GPA and GRE scores. It is useful to have prior research experience, but not necessary. Most important is identifying your own research interests that are consistent with the ongoing research in our lab. Further information regarding our graduate program and admission requirements can be found at <http://www.uttyler.edu/biology/graduate/master-science-degree.php>

**Start Date:** Fall 2018 (fall semester). Application deadline: March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018; but applications will be reviewed as they arrive. Applicants are encouraged to submit applications as early as possible.

**Application materials:** Interested applicants are encouraged to contact either Dr. Katrin Kellner ([kkellner@uttyler.edu](mailto:kkellner@uttyler.edu)) or Dr. Jon Seal ([jseal@uttyler.edu](mailto:jseal@uttyler.edu)) with a brief cover letter, CV, and if available, unofficial GRE scores and transcripts.

Please be aware that official applications must be submitted online through the university website. See here for more details. <http://www.uttyler.edu/biology/graduate/master-science-degree.php>

The Department of Biology at UT Tyler consists of thirteen full time research faculty. Departmental strengths include bioinformatics, microbial and molecular ecology, aquatic ecology, conservation biology, genomics and landscape ecology. Most research is focused on local systems that occur within a few hours' drive from Tyler.

Part of the University of Texas System, UT Tyler is located in northeastern Texas at the ecotone between two state and federally designated ecoregions, southeastern pine forests (the 'Piney Woods') and post oak savannas. As a result, the area contains a mixture of eastern, western and southern species. We have a number of field sites established nearby, including one on campus, and many others within driving distance in central and southeastern Texas. Additional field sites are in Florida and Arizona.

Tyler has around 100,000 residents and is among one of the fastest growing cities in Texas. UT Tyler is a relatively young university (founded in 1971). Tyler is developing an economy focused around higher education, health/biomedical fields and many locally owned businesses, which now includes two microbreweries, coffee shops and assorted foodie-type establishments. Tyler has a regional airport, and is approximately a 90 minute drive to either Dallas, Texas or Shreveport, Louisiana. Amtrak stations are found in nearby Mineola or Longview with daily trains to Chicago or San Antonio.