Graduate Research Assistant in Pollinator Molecular Ecology

The Molecular Ecology Laboratory at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES), Appalachian Laboratory is seeking applications for a MS or PhD-level Graduate Research Assistant. The successful applicant will work with graduate advisor Dr. Rodney Richardson (https://www.umces.edu/rodney-richardson) to study pollinator health. Projects could involve questions of pollinator foraging, landscape ecology and floral resource competition between wild and managed bee species. Students will have the opportunity to learn cutting edge metagenetic DNA sequencing techniques and utilize these tools to advance our understanding of pollinator health. This research will have real-world application by informing the conservation of declining bee species. Preference will be given to individuals who have experience in field ecology and a willingness to learn molecular techniques.

Start Date: August 2021

Location: The UMCES Appalachian Laboratory is located in Frostburg, MD and strives to prepare students to meet future challenges in the protection of natural resources, biodiversity conservation and ecological restoration and management. Frostburg is a small college town with a low cost of living and abundant outdoor recreation opportunities. Nearby amenities include numerous state forests and wildlife areas, scenic Appalachian Mountains and Frostburg State University.

Required Qualifications: BS in Genetics, Ecology or similar field

Description: The assistantship will include tuition coverage, benefits and a 12-month annual stipend of approximately $26,000. Three years of support are available through research and teaching assistantships and will be extended as needed.

Program: A PhD track applicant would matriculate through the UMCES Marine, Estuarine, and Environmental Sciences Program (MEES; https://www.mees.umd.edu/admissions#How-to-apply). MS applicants may matriculate through either the MEES program or the Biology Department of Frostburg State University (https://www.frostburg.edu/_files/files/academics/grad/masters-bio-sciences-2018-2020.pdf#page=3).

UMCES is an affirmative action, EOE. Individuals with disabilities, veterans, women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

Application Materials: Prior to formally applying, prospective students should email the following documents to Rodney Richardson (rodney.richardson@umces.edu): 1) a statement of their research experience, interests and goals, 2) a current CV, 3) unofficial transcripts of all graduate and undergraduate education and 4) contact information for three academic references. Inquiries received before December 1st will receive priority consideration, but the position will remain open until it is filled.