

**Subject:** Graduate position (MSc or PhD) in community ecology at USU

The Spatial Community Ecology Laboratory at Utah State University is seeking Ph.D and M.Sc applicants to undertake research in the field of freshwater community ecology. Current areas of interest include – 1) The evolutionary responses of mosquitoes to pesticide contamination. 2) Understanding the relationships between habitat condition, aquatic community health, and ecosystem function. 3) How do changes to river flow affect aquatic insects and their ability to support fish populations? 4) How do changes in water conditions affect interactions between predators, prey, and competitors? 5) Can distributions of aquatic insects inform conservation decisions? Candidates with other specific research interests are encouraged to suggest projects in their application.

The successful candidate will have access to a well-equipped laboratory, and Utah State University's nearby outdoor Aquatic Research Facility that houses mesocosms and experimental ponds. In addition the research group has strong ties to research stations in Costa Rica, Brazil, Canada and Australia that will be available for field projects. A knowledge of the statistical programming package R, and/or ArcGIS, and conversational ability in either Spanish or Portuguese will be looked upon favorably.

Candidates should be reasonably physically fit, and be able to carry a 40lb backpack 1 mile.

Utah State University (<http://www.usu.edu>) is a Research I (Extensive Doctoral) land-grant institution with a student body of over 24,000, 42 departments, 8 academic colleges, a school of Graduate Studies, and diverse research programs. The main campus is located in Logan, a community of 100,000 people. Logan is 85 miles north of Salt Lake City in scenic Cache Valley, a semi-rural mountain basin with nearby ski resorts, lakes, rivers, and mountains providing many recreational opportunities. The area has a low cost of living and provides a high quality of life. For more information on Logan see <http://www.tourcachevalley.com>. Initial funding for tuition and salary has been secured. Candidates are strongly encouraged to apply for external fellowships through the NSF and other sources, and internal fellowships at Utah State (<http://rgs.usu.edu/graduateschool/htm/finances/fellowships>, and <http://rgs.usu.edu/graduateschool/finances/funding-available-to-graduate-students>). Candidates will be provided extensive support with the application process. Starting salaries are \$18,000 for a Masters student, and \$20,000 for a PhD.

Please contact Edd Hammill ([edd.hammill@usu.edu](mailto:edd.hammill@usu.edu), 435 265 5964) for more information or to submit application materials (CV, cover letter, any publications, details of their research interests). Initial review of applications will begin April 1st 2016.

Edd Hammill's google scholar page -

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=THOE6q0AAAAJ&hl=en>