

A **PhD research assistantship** in the Department of Entomology/Nematology at the University of Florida is available starting spring semester 2019 in the laboratory of Dr. Rachel Mallinger. The successful candidate will conduct research on blueberry pollination ecology in collaboration with Dr. Patricio Munoz and the Blueberry Breeding and Genomics Lab at UF. Potential research topics include investigating variation in pollinator visitation across blueberry genotypes, determining the role of floral traits in mediating pollinator attraction, and evaluating factors that influence pollination success including farm size, farm management, or pollinator behavior. The student will join a growing and active research group, and will have the opportunity to engage in extension with Florida blueberry growers.

The student will be located at the main campus of UF in Gainesville, Florida. Gainesville is a lively college town offering a strong arts and music scene along with plentiful outdoor recreation activities. UF was recently ranked in the top 10 public universities in the U.S., and UF's Department of Entomology and Nematology was rated best in the world in 2017. This position is fully funded, including tuition, stipend, and some benefits, for the duration of the PhD program.



**Requirements:** A Master's in Entomology, Botany, Horticulture, Biology, or related field, with some coursework and/or research experience in both insect and plant sciences. Additionally, the successful candidate must have excellent written and oral communication skills, previous field research experience, and be willing to work outdoors under variable conditions. **Preferred qualifications:** Previous research on managed or wild bees, plant pollination, or plant-pollinator interactions. Knowledge of different statistical analyses and experience with R statistical software. Previous work in, or familiarity with, agricultural systems.

To apply, please send a cover letter, resume or CV, and names and contact information for 3 references to Dr. Rachel Mallinger at [rachel.mallinger@ufl.edu](mailto:rachel.mallinger@ufl.edu) by **August 31, 2018**. For more information on Dr. Mallinger's lab, please visit [www.rachelmallinger.com](http://www.rachelmallinger.com), and for more information on Dr. Munoz's lab, please visit: <https://www.blueberrybreeding.com/>. Please contact Dr. Mallinger with any questions regarding the position.

