

PhD scholarship available: pollination networks in Australia

The Rader lab ([raderlab.com](http://raderlab.com)), in collaboration with the Mayfield lab ([mayfieldplantecologylab.org](http://mayfieldplantecologylab.org)), is offering a unique and exciting opportunity for a motivated, independent and adventurous PhD candidate to study pollination networks in Australian plant communities including the alpine zone of the snowy mountains, the floristically diverse york gum woodlands of Western Australia and various coastal forest and agroecosystems in New South Wales. We will use these systems to ask different questions (depending on candidate interests). This system provides a unique opportunity to investigate novel questions about pollinator efficiency, pollen flow in different environments, top down effects on plant reproduction, non-bee pollinator biology (especially flies) and how the resources in different land uses impact pollinator and plant networks.

The successful PhD candidate will be required to: identify sites for sampling plant-pollinator networks, collect insects for identification, collect stigmas for pollen identification, mark flowers and collect seed, conduct land-use analyses and analyse complex network data. This 3-year PhD project will be based at UNE, in Armidale, NSW Australia with regular travel to New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia, for up to 3-6 months per year, to conduct fieldwork. The first field season will begin in August 2019 and will run for several months. The successful applicant will need to be comfortable living in close quarters with other students and researchers, for up to several months at a time.

**The successful candidate will have:**

- Ecological fieldwork experience, preferably plants and insects.
- Strong analytical and programming skills, including experience or interest in network analyses. Experience with R language or similar is essential.
- Excellent writing skills and experience preparing scientific manuscripts for publication (at least one peer-reviewed publication is preferred).
- Experience working in remote locations and challenging environments.
- Good plant and insect identification skills, and ability to quickly learn new plant and insect IDs.
- Experience using ArcGIS or similar, or willingness to learn.
- Experience with pollination biology methods is desirable, but not essential.

**About the lab:** the Rader lab is based at the University of New England in Armidale, NSW Australia. We are a multi-disciplinary group, studying a range of topics including pollination networks, global change impacts on pollinator communities, crop pollination and ecosystem services.

**Supervisors:** Dr Romina Rader, Dr Jamie Stavert, Prof. Margaret Mayfield and Dr  
Manu Saunders All applicants are required to send a CV and cover letter to Romina  
Rader: [rrader@une.edu.au](mailto:rrader@une.edu.au) by **15 February 2019**. **Contact Romina Rader:**  
**[rrader@une.edu.au](mailto:rrader@une.edu.au) or Jamie Stavert: [jamie.stavert@gmail.com](mailto:jamie.stavert@gmail.com) for further**  
**information.**

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