

M. S. Graduate Student Assistantship **Florida Medical Entomology Lab, Univ. of Florida**

Modeling microbial interactions in *Borrelia* transmission between ticks and hosts

We are seeking a highly motivated and enthusiastic candidate for a graduate position on our team (Cynthia Lord's lab) at the University of Florida, [Florida Medical Entomology Lab](#). The position is available starting in Spring 2025 and the student's academic department will be [Entomology and Nematology](#). Interactions with UF interdisciplinary centers are possible. The candidate will work with an interdisciplinary, multi-institution team on ecological interactions between ticks, hosts and microbes, including *Borrelia burgdorferi*.

The project will explore effects of ecological, environmental, and microbial interactions on ticks and microbe transmission using mathematical models. Opportunities to participate in field and laboratory work at partner institutions are planned. Preference will be given to candidates with strong academic performance, excellent communication skills, and experience or demonstrated interest in modeling, mathematics and/or computer programming. Student will be expected to publish findings in peer-reviewed journals and participate in professional meetings.

The Florida Medical Entomology lab is a unique facility with 11 faculty focused on medical entomology, with research spanning field ecology, population dynamics and molecular biology. The UF Entomology program was recently ranked #1 for Entomology.

Qualifications: a Bachelor's degree in Entomology, Ecology, Biology, or related field. Demonstrated interest or experience in population dynamics, mathematics or modeling. Research experience in related field desirable.

For more information contact Dr. Lord (clord@ufl.edu).

Start date: Spring 2025. Later start dates possible depending on candidate.

To apply: please submit a CV, cover letter, and short statement of research interests to Dr. Cynthia Lord (clord@ufl.edu). Please reference posting GSF24, and include contact information of at least two references. Review of applications is ongoing and will continue until the position is filled.

The University of Florida is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. We welcome nominations of and applications from anyone who would bring additional dimensions to the university's research, teaching and extension mission, including women, members of minority groups, protected veterans, and individuals with disabilities.