

Ph.D. 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 Ph.D. program in our team (Cynthia Lord's lab) at the University of Florida, [Florida Medical Entomology Lab](#). The position is available starting in Summer or Fall 2024 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 13 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, Mathematics or related field. Demonstrated interest in ecology, population dynamics and mathematical modeling or quantitative biology. MS or Research experience in related field.

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

Start date: Summer or Fall 2024

To apply: please submit a CV, cover letter, and short statement of research interests to Dr. Cynthia Lord (clord@ufl.edu) and refer to Microbial Interactions – Ph.D. position. Please 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.

