



## Funded PhD scholarship: Experimentally testing mechanisms behind interactions between managed and wild pollinators

**Project description:** We are seeking a highly motivated and enthusiastic student for a PhD position to test potential mechanisms behind interactions between managed and wild pollinators. Pollinating insects face many threats, and competition with managed species has been identified as a potential stressor in some environments. However, a major gap exists in understanding the mechanisms behind interactions between managed and wild pollinators.

As part of the Research Ireland funded InterPoll project, this PhD will develop a series of lab and semi-field experiments to investigate the interactions between honeybees and other bee species in an experimental setting. The project will use a network of insect cages at the UCD Rosemount Environmental Research Station on campus, which will allow us to manipulate honeybee presence and forage availability of key insect pollinated crops. It will involve working with both bees and plants in an experimental setting, including general insect and plant husbandry, and assessing bee behaviour and plant traits.

This position will work closely with other members of the InterPoll project; therefore teamwork and collaboration skills will be important. There will also be the opportunity to get involved in some literature review and media synthesis work.

**Supervisor and Environment:** This position will be co-supervised by Dr Dara Stanley and Dr Brian Tobin based in the [School of Agriculture and Food Science](#) and [Earth Institute](#) at University College Dublin, Ireland. The student will also work closely with the wider InterPoll team (consisting of five academics, a postdoc and another PhD position), and will join a dynamic and engaged [research group](#).

**Duration:** 4 years

**Benefits:** €25,000 personal stipend per year (tax free), plus EU fees (Non-EU applicants must be in a position to pay the shortfall in fees). Research and travel costs are additional and covered by the grant.

**Entry requirements:** This project is suited for applicants with at least an undergraduate degree in ecology, zoology, environmental science or related discipline. Applicants should hold a minimum of a 2.1 in their degree programme.

**Expected start date:** 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026

**How to apply:** Application is through [this form](#). You will be requested to upload a) a cover letter detailing interest and motivations for the project and what you feel you could bring to it (max 2 pages), b) a CV detailing research experience (max 3 pages) and c) an example of scientific writing (e.g. an essay, manuscript, lab report or publication etc). Please save and submit all documents together as one pdf file. We do not require transcripts at this stage.

**Closing date for applications:** 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026, 5pm. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an online interview.

For more information and for lab publications see <https://www.stanleyecologylab.org/>.

Informal enquiries to [dara.stanley@ucd.ie](mailto:dara.stanley@ucd.ie)