



Funded PhD scholarship: Understanding behavioural interactions between managed and wild pollinators in the field

Project description: We are seeking a highly motivated and enthusiastic student for a PhD position investigating the interactions between managed and wild pollinators in the field. Pollinating insects face many threats, and competition with managed species has been identified as a potential stressor in some environments. However, we know little about these interactions in an Irish context where beekeeping is at a relatively small scale.

As part of the Research Ireland funded InterPoll project, this PhD will establish a large network of field sites which vary in density of managed honeybees, and will assess behaviour of both honeybees and wild bumblebees, and abundance and diversity of all pollinators. It will involve extensive fieldwork sampling pollinators and their behaviour (see past work [here](#)), and working with a network of landowners and other stakeholders.

This position will work closely with other members of the InterPoll project, in particular a postdoc position that will be collecting samples for molecular work in the same sites. 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 supervised by Dr Dara Stanley 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. A full, clean drivers licence is required.

Expected start date: 1st 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: 17th 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