College of Science
Department of Biological Sciences

Ph.D. Positions in Quantitative Ecology

Two Ph.D. student positions are available in the Li lab (https://www.dlilab.com/) to begin for spring or fall semester 2022. Students will have guaranteed funding for up to 6 years (~3 year Teaching Assistantship and ~3 year Research Assistantship) and there is NO GRE requirement for admission. The application packets are due **January 3rd, 2022**. Application instructions can be found at https://www.lsu.edu/science/biosci/graduateprogram/prospectivegradstudents.php

The **first** position would focus on developing advanced deep learning approaches to extract phenological information (e.g., leaf, flower, fruit) from images (e.g., digitized specimen, photographs from iNaturalist, Twitter, etc.) and using such data to investigate how environmental changes have affected plant phenology (and potentially other trophic levels such as insects). The **second** position would focus on investigating how environmental changes such as climate change and urbanization have affected biodiversity of multiple taxonomic groups using both field research and data science approaches. New students will be encouraged to develop their own research projects along the research directions described above or start new relevant research directions.

Selecting a lab and adviser that suits your interests and needs is critical for your success. We are a welcoming, inclusive, and supportive lab as part of the Department of Biological Sciences and the Center for Computation & Technology at Louisiana State University, which is located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA. Please see the lab website (https://www.dlilab.com/) for more details.

Applicants from various backgrounds will be considered, including biology, ecology, statistics, computer science, or related disciplines. Applicants from under-served groups in STEM are especially encouraged to apply. Preference will be given to students that have completed an M.S. degree. Prospective students thus should contact Dr. Li via email (dli30@lsu.edu) using "PhD position fall 2022 - phenology" or "PhD position fall 2022 - biodiversity" as the subject header to discuss about possibilities before applying to the program. In the email, please include a CV, a 1-2 pages cover letter with research interests and experiences, and a scientific writing example if possible.

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