



Two PhD Positions in Quantitative Ecology

Two PhD student positions are available in the Li Lab (<https://www.dlilab.com/>) at the Department of Botany at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. PhD students will generally have funding for at least five years (through Teaching Assistantship, Fellowships, or Research Assistantship). The deadline for applications for Fall 2026 enrollment is December 1st, 2025. Application instructions can be found at <https://botany.wisc.edu/graduate-application-process/>. Potential research projects will focus on understanding how environmental changes, such as climate change and urbanization, impact biodiversity, phenology, and species interactions, using a combination of fieldwork and data science approaches (e.g., statistics, machine learning). Students are encouraged to develop independent research ideas aligned with or expanding upon current lab themes (see examples and publications on the lab website).

Applicants from diverse academic backgrounds are welcome, including biology, ecology, statistics, computer science, and related fields. Students from historically underrepresented groups in STEM are especially encouraged to apply. Prospective applicants should contact Dr. Daijiang Li via email (dli55@wisc.edu) with the subject line “PhD position fall 2026” prior to submitting an official application. Please include a CV and a cover letter that briefly describes:

- your research interests and relevant experiences
- the overarching question you wish to pursue in the lab
- three hypotheses you would like to test during your PhD
- proposed study systems, available data, and methodological approaches

Madison, WI, is a vibrant, progressive city known for its high quality of life and active outdoor culture. Surrounded by lakes and parks, Madison offers abundant opportunities for hiking, kayaking, cross-country skiing, and cycling. As the capital of Wisconsin and home to a top-ranked public university, Madison blends a dynamic academic atmosphere with a thriving arts and music scene, excellent local food, and a strong sense of community. With four distinct seasons and a walkable, bike-friendly design, Madison is an ideal place to study, live, and grow both professionally and personally; and not surprisingly, Madison is consistently ranked as one of the top places to live.

Department of Botany

University of Wisconsin–Madison 430 Lincoln Drive, Madison, Wisconsin 53706