

## **Ph.D. Position Available in Bee Phylogenetics and Evolution**

Branstetter Bee Systematics Lab  
USDA-ARS Pollinating Insects Research Unit  
Utah State University  
Logan, UT

**Position Overview:** A 4-year, fully funded Ph.D. position in bee phylogenomics and evolution is available in the Branstetter Lab at Utah State University, starting in fall 2022. The position is funded as part of a recently awarded U.S. National Science Foundation grant entitled “Bees of the World - Phylogenomics, Biogeography, and Evolution of Host-Plant Associations”. The selected student will be expected to assist with grant activities and to conduct research related to grant objectives.

**About Bees of the World:** The research aims of the grant are to (1) assemble a comprehensive phylogenomic dataset for bees, (2) reconstruct global bee biogeography, and (3) examine patterns of host-plant evolution across bees and within select clades. The project will also engage in various training and outreach activities related to bee evolution and conservation. The grant is a collaboration with Drs. Elizabeth Murray (project lead) and Silas Bossert at Washington State University, Dr. Bryan Danforth at Cornell University, and Paulmichael Maxfield at the Natural History Museum of Utah. Students at each collaborating university will be developing independent projects related to project aims.

**The Branstetter Lab:** I am a Research Entomologist in the Pollinating Insects Research Unit, which is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service. I am also an adjunct professor in the Biology Department at Utah State University where our research unit is located. The objectives of the Branstetter Lab are to improve knowledge of native bee biodiversity, systematics, and conservation via the development and application of novel molecular and genomics tools. Our research revolves around bee molecular phylogenetics, but covers diverse topics, including bee taxonomy, phylogenomics, species delimitation, biogeography, molecular identification, genomics, and conservation.

**Who Should Apply:** Anyone with a strong interest in bee systematics, phylogenetics, and/or evolution. Students interested in learning molecular laboratory techniques and bioinformatics skills are strongly encouraged to apply.

**How to Apply:** Contact me! Please send an email to Dr. Michael Branstetter ([michael.branstetter@usda.gov](mailto:michael.branstetter@usda.gov)) to introduce yourself and arrange a meeting. In the email, please include a resume/CV and short paragraph describing why you are interested in the position and what your career goals are. Next, you will need to apply to be a graduate student in the Department of Biology at Utah State University ([https://biology.usu.edu/education/graduate-program/prospective\\_students](https://biology.usu.edu/education/graduate-program/prospective_students)). There is no strict deadline to apply.