

**Mosquito ecology and evolution**  
**Graduate student assistantship (Master of Science)**  
**Dharmarajan Disease Ecology Lab, University of Georgia's Savannah River Ecology Lab**

**Assistantship Description:** A graduate assistantship for an outstanding Master's student is available at Guha Dharmarajan's Disease Ecology Lab located at the University of Georgia's Savannah River Ecology Laboratory. The successful applicant will earn his/her degree through the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources at the University of Georgia. Research at the Dharmarajan Lab broadly focuses on the ecological and evolutionary dynamics of disease in natural populations. It is expected that the incoming student will pursue research broadly in the field of mosquito ecology and evolution. One specific area of interest at the lab is understanding vector-parasite coevolutionary dynamics using *Aedes albopictus* (the Asian tiger mosquito) and *Dirofilaria immitis* (canine heartworm) as the model system. However, students are strongly encouraged to develop independent and novel research projects broadly related to vector ecology and evolution.

**Qualifications:**

1. B.S. degree in wildlife biology, ecology, zoology, or biology. However, students with related educational backgrounds are also encouraged to apply.
2. Applicants must be highly motivated with an exceptional work ethic and ability for independent thought.
3. Applicants should have an excellent academic background, and show strong evidence of well-developed oral and written communication skills.
4. The candidate must be able and willing to work in the field under adverse conditions and have excellent organizational skills.
5. Students with an interest in addressing ecological and evolutionary questions through the integration of field and lab based research, as well as through integration of multiple research tools (e.g., genomics, transcriptomics, GIS and/or theoretical modelling) are especially encouraged to apply.
6. Preference will be given to students with extensive research experience in the lab or field, and especially to those with experience related to disease vectors and/or vector-borne disease.
7. **Please note:** Warnell requires a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 and GRE scores of 1000 (~300 in new scoring system) for admission
8. **Please note:** SREL is located on the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site in Aiken, SC. A security clearance will be required, and applicants must be able and willing to pass a background investigation.

**Stipend and Benefits:** This assistantship is based on a 40% stipend. Position will offer \$19,551/year for two years. The student will receive a full-tuition waiver but will be expected to pay some mandated fees (details can be found at <http://busfin.uga.edu/bursar/>). All students on assistantship are required to have health insurance, and a portion of the premium for the University System's health insurance plan is paid by the University of Georgia.

**Further information:**

1. Details on Dr. Dharmarajan's lab can be found at [www.gdharmarajan.com](http://www.gdharmarajan.com)
2. Details on the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory can be found at <https://srel.uga.edu/>
3. Details on the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources can be found at [www.warnell.uga.edu](http://www.warnell.uga.edu).
4. Details about the graduate program are available at <https://www.warnell.uga.edu/graduate>.
5. Details of the application process are at <https://www.warnell.uga.edu/graduate/future-student/s/application-process>.
6. Details on the University of Georgia can be found at [www.uga.edu](http://www.uga.edu)
7. All applications have to be sent electronically through the web site of UGA's Graduate School, and details can be found at [grad.uga.edu/index.php/prospective-students](http://grad.uga.edu/index.php/prospective-students)
8. Interested candidates must contact Dr. Dharmarajan prior to submitting their application to the Graduate School (see below).

**Application details:**

1. Review of applications for potential graduate students to fill this assistantship offer will start on **April 21, 2017** and will continue until a suitable candidate is found.
2. For full consideration please email Guha Dharmarajan on or before the deadline at [guha\[at\]srel.uga.edu](mailto:guha[at]srel.uga.edu)
3. Please include the following in the email subject line: **SREL graduate assistantship application**
4. Please email the following information as a **single PDF document**:
  - a. Curriculum Vitae (including GPA and GRE scores)
  - b. Statement of Purpose (1-2 pages) which should focus on:
    - Prior research, academic or personal experiences which have prepared you for graduate research
    - One area of research that you would be interested in for your Master's degree. Candidates are encouraged to be as specific as possible in this section. For this position it would help if ideas are broadly in the area of vector ecology/evolution. Preference will be given to candidates who reveal an understanding of current lacunae in our knowledge of vector biology, and who propose ideas to fill these specific lacunae.
    - Long-term professional goals and expectations from this degree.
  - c. Professional references: As mentioned earlier, preference will be given to students with previous research experience in the lab or field. Thus, please preferentially include referees who have directly supervised your research. Please note that in case you are shortlisted your referees must be willing to submit a letter of reference for you within a week of being contacted. For each referee please include the following information:
    - Name, position and affiliation
    - Contact information including email address and phone number
    - Potential days and times that they can be reached by phone (if required)
    - How long the referee has known you and in what capacity (please be as specific as possible)

**Contact:** Guha Dharmarajan, Ph.D.,  
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The University of Georgia's Savannah River Ecology Laboratory  
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