

PhD Assistantship at LSU - Molecular Biology of Social Behavior

Description: The Sun Lab at Louisiana State University is recruiting a PhD student to study the molecular biology of social behavior in termites. This research will involve genomic analyses and RNA-Seq experiments to understand the molecular underpinnings of social regulation and invasion biology in the Formosan subterranean termite. The first year at the position will be partially supported by the **Jeffrey P. La Fage Memorial Assistantship**. This assistantship was established by friends, associates, and colleagues of the late Dr. La Fage, a Professor of Entomology at LSU, to commemorate his contributions to the field of urban entomology, particularly the biology and control of the invasive Formosan subterranean termite.

The Sun Lab (<https://www.qiansunlab.com>) is a recently established, growing and active lab at Department of Entomology at LSU, located in vibrant Baton Rouge on the banks of the Mississippi River. The Department is co-located with the Department of Biological Sciences in the Life Sciences Building, and students have access to diverse campus facilities (<https://www.lsu.edu/research/about/centers.php>) to obtain training, assistance and service for their research.

Qualifications: Master's degree in biology, entomology, or related field is expected. Direct entry from a Bachelor's will be considered for students of exceptional academic ability. Experience in molecular biology or bioinformatics is desirable but not absolutely required.

Start Date and Compensations: The position starts in spring or fall 2020. The student will be fully funded with a competitive stipend with tuition waiver.

Application Procedures: Interested applicants are encouraged to contact Dr. Qian "Karen" Sun at qsun@lsu.edu. Please include 1) a CV (including GPA and GRE scores), 2) a description of research experience and interests, and 3) names and contact information for three references. The successful applicant will be required to submit the application to LSU graduate school. Please visit LSU Entomology website for more information (<http://entomology.lsu.edu/prospective.html>).