

## **Postdoctoral Research Position in Pollinator Ecology and Conservation Lab at UF**

**Description:** The postdoctoral researcher will work on a USDA-NIFA funded project to Dr. Rachel Mallinger on evaluating and optimizing pollinator gardens across a landscape gradient. The overall goal of the project is to evaluate ecological and socio-economic factors that mediate the value of gardens for bees within the developed landscape through three objectives. Obj 1: examine how domestication, region of origin, and water treatments affect plant traits, floral rewards, and pollinator visitation in order to identify plants that meet multiple conservation goals. Obj 2: determine how plant diversity and landscape context interact to mediate the value of pollinator gardens for bees by enhancing resource-poor gardens along a landscape gradient. Obj 3: identify socio-economic barriers to changing gardening practices using focus groups and a random survey. The post-doctoral researcher will work primarily on Obj. 2 above but will have opportunities to collaborate with and mentor graduate students working on Obj. 1 and 3. The project will involve working with Master Gardener Volunteers in the state of Florida, project collaborators including Dr. Xavier Martini (UF), Dr. Laura Warner (UF), and Dr. Gary Knox (UF), and stakeholders in the horticultural, gardening, and landscaping industries. Candidates will be expected to mentor undergraduate and graduate students, write peer-reviewed publications, and present research at both scientific meetings and to stakeholders. Candidates will also be encouraged to pursue other research interests relevant to the lab's broader research program including plant pollination biology, pollinator behavior, and pollinator community ecology.

The Pollinator Ecology and Conservation Lab at UF (Dr. Mallinger Lab) is a large and diverse group conducting research on crop pollination, rare plant pollination, wild bee biology, and pollinator community ecology. For more information on the lab, please visit [www.rachelmallinger.com](http://www.rachelmallinger.com).

**Minimum qualifications:** 1) PhD in relevant field such as biology, ecology, entomology, horticulture or botany, 2) expertise in ecological statistics including mixed modeling and/or multivariate statistics, 3) experience conducting large-scale field research projects, 4) ability to drive for research and work outdoors in occasionally extreme conditions, and 5) evidence of ability to publish scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals.

**Preferred qualifications:** 1) Research experience in landscape ecology including proficiency in ArcGIS, 2) proficiency with R for statistical computing and graphics, and 3) experience with the identification and taxonomy of bees and other pollinators.

**Salary:** \$50,000/year

**Start date:** As soon as possible and by September 1, 2021

**Duration:** This is a fully-funded position for 2.5 years. The appointment will be offered for 1 year with renewal for up to 2.5 years pending satisfactory performance.

**Location:** This position is based on the main campus of the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida. Gainesville is a lively college town offering a strong arts and music scene along with

plentiful outdoor recreation activities. UF was recently ranked in the top 10 public universities in the U.S., and UF's Department of Entomology and Nematology was rated best in the world in 2017. Field work will be conducted in the area around Gainesville and will require day trips and possibly infrequent overnight trips.

**To apply:** Please send a cover letter describing your interest in the position and qualifications, CV, and list of three references with contact information as a single pdf file to Dr. Rachel Mallinger at [rachel.mallinger@ufl.edu](mailto:rachel.mallinger@ufl.edu). Review of applicants will begin **April 1, 2021** and the position will remain open until filled. Selected candidate will be required to provide an official transcript to the hiring department upon hire. Degrees earned from an education institution outside of the United States are required to be evaluated by a professional credentialing service provider approved by National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES).

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences is committed to creating an environment that affirms diversity across a variety of dimensions, including ability, class, ethnicity/race, gender identity and expression. We particularly welcome applicants who can contribute to such an environment through their scholarship, teaching, mentoring, and professional service. If an accommodation due to a disability is needed to apply for this position, please call 352-392-2477 or the Florida Relay System at 800-955-8771 (TDD) or visit [Accessibility at UF](#) .

**Contact:** Dr. Rachel Mallinger, [rachel.mallinger@ufl.edu](mailto:rachel.mallinger@ufl.edu)

