

Doctoral Position in the Field of Ecological and Evolutionary Parasitology

Dear colleagues,

We kindly your assistance in spreading the word about a 3+1 years PhD position in the field of Ecological and Evolutionary Parasitology in the University of Valencia, starting December 1st. This is a predoctoral contract (FPI fellowship) associated with the research project ***Evolutionary and ecological determinants of specialization: Disentangling the drivers of host specificity in a fish-monogenean model***, funded by the Ministry of Science and Innovation of Spain.

We seek a highly motivated graduate student interested in the ecology and evolution of fish parasites, to start working on a new project on the determinants of ecological specialization. The research team is composed by faculty from four different centers across Europe: The Cavanilles Institute for Biodiversity and Evolutionary Biology (University of Valencia, Spain), the Observatoire Océanologique de Banyuls (Sorbonne Université, France), the Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries (Croatia), and the Institute of Parasitology (Biology Centre, Czech Republic).

The successful candidate will be trained in molecular biology, bioinformatics, microscopy and taxonomy of fish parasites. The results of their research will help determine why and how some parasite species become highly specialized in a single host species, as opposed to others that readily infect a wider range of host species. The system under study involves Mediterranean sparid fish and their monogenean parasites belonging to the genus *Lamellodiscus*.

The primary research activities will be based at the Cavanilles Institute for Biodiversity and Evolutionary Biology, University of Valencia (Spain), situated on the Paterna-Burjassot campus. Additionally, as an integral part of the PhD program, stays abroad and visits to our partner laboratories will also be scheduled.

The hosting laboratory has a strong track record of accommodating both international and local students, fostering a culture that values diversity and actively promotes international applications. You can address any additional enquiry to Juan Antonio Balbuena (j.a.balbuena@uv.es) or Ignasi Lucas (joiglu@uv.es).

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