Master’s program in Ecology, Evolution & Conservation Biology

The Biology Department at the College of William & Mary is recruiting new Masters students in ecology, evolution and conservation biology to start in Fall 2015.

We offer a two-year, research-intensive M.S. program where students are supported by teaching assistantships and full tuition waivers. For many students, getting a Master’s degree in two years while earning grants and publications allows them to gain admittance to high-profile Ph.D. programs.

With a low student to faculty ratio (8-10 new students and 23 full-time faculty), we can offer an intimate and highly personalized research and education experience rarely attainable at larger universities. Our graduate students also work closely with and mentor undergraduates, offering numerous informal teaching and personal development opportunities.

Our Department has a diverse faculty with real strength in ecology, evolution, and conservation biology. Some of our faculty and their research interests are listed on the following page. Many faculty are funded through, NSF, NIH as well as HHMI, and are looking to take on new MS students next fall.

General information about our program and how to apply can be found on our Departmental web site using the following link: http://www.wm.edu/as/biology/graduate/index.php

Additional inquiries can be directed toward the Graduate Program Director, Dr. Matthew Wawersik, at mjwawe@wm.edu

We look forward to helping your talented students achieve their goals, and appreciate you sharing this information with those you believe will excel in our program.
W&M Biology Faculty Research Interests:

Jonathan Allen, Assistant Professor; Ph.D. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Marine invertebrate biology; life history evolution; larval ecology and the role of maternal effects on development. jdallen@wm.edu

Martha Case, Associate Professor; Ph.D. Michigan State. Systematics and evolutionary mechanisms of Orchid taxa; rare species conservation and applications of population genetic data to plant conservation. macase@wm.edu

Randolph Chambers, Professor; Ph.D. University of Virginia. Ecology and restoration of wetlands; environmental sciences and biology and geochemistry of sedimentary environments. rmcham@wm.edu

Daniel Cristol, Professor; Ph.D. Indiana University. Animal behavior; behavioral ecology and neuroethology of bird migration and foraging; conservation biology. dacris@wm.edu

Harmony Dalgleish, Assistant Professor; Ph.D. Kansas State University. Plant population ecology; demography and matrix population models; bud seed bank ecology; plant-animal interactions; restoration ecology of American chestnut. hjdalgleish@wm.edu

Norman Fashing, Professor; Ph.D. University of Kansas. Behavior and ecology of insects and arachnids; systematics of astigmatid mites. njfash@wm.edu

Paul Heideman, Professor; Ph.D. University of Michigan. Ecological and evolutionary physiology; variation of neuroendocrine pathways; environmental regulation of reproduction in mammals; seasonal rhythms. pdheid@wm.edu

Matthias Leu, Assistant Professor; Ph.D. University of Washington. Conservation ecology of flora and fauna; animal-climate interactions; conservation planning and reserve design; landscape ecology; population ecology. mleu@wm.edu

M. Drew LaMar, Assistant Professor; Ph.D. The University of Texas at Austin. Mathematical modeling and simulation: chemical reaction network theory in ecological models; sensitivity of zooplankton models on mortality rates; effects of cannibalism in continuous stage-structured population models. mdlama@wm.edu

Helen Murphy, Assistant Professor; Ph.D. University of Pennsylvania. Evolutionary genetics; experimental evolution; sociomicrobiology; microbial population dynamics; microbial ecology & evolution. hamurphy@wm.edu

Joshua Puzey, Assistant Professor; Ph.D. Harvard University. Plant development & biomechanics; evolutionary genomics; adaptation to whole genome duplication. jrpuzey@wm.edu

Laurie Sanderson, Professor; Ph.D. Harvard University. Vertebrate functional morphology; fish ecology and feeding behavior; functional ecology of filter-feeding vertebrates. slsand@wm.edu

Diane Shakes, Professor; Ph.D. Johns Hopkins University. Evolution of nematode sperm diversity and skewed sex ratios. dcshak@wm.edu

John Swaddle, Professor; Ph.D. University of Bristol, U.K. Behavioral ecology of birds; sexual selection; influence of developmental variation on evolutionary processes; functional morphology; body mass regulation. jpswad@wm.edu

Stewart Ware, Professor Emeritus; Ph.D. Vanderbilt. Environmental control of plant distribution and abundance; edaphic factors and vegetation; role of interspecific competition in plant community structure. saware@wm.edu

Bryan Watts, Professor; Ph.D. University of Georgia. Avian community ecology; habitat dynamics in disturbance-prone landscapes; conservation of rare and endangered species and communities. bdwatt@wm.edu

Kurt Williamson, Associate Professor; Ph.D. University of Delaware. Soil microbial ecology. Environmental virology. kewilliabson@wm.edu