



PhD and Postdoc Positions in Quantitative Ecology

2 PhD students and 1-2 postdoc positions are available in the Li lab (<https://www.dlilab.com/>) at the EEB department of the University of Arizona.

PhD students will have guaranteed funding for at least 5 years (Teaching Assistantship or Research Assistantship). The deadline for applications for fall 2025 enrollment is **December 1st, 2024**. Application instructions can be found at <https://eeb.arizona.edu/graduate/prospective-students/apply-program>. Potential research projects would center on investigating how environmental changes such as climate change and urbanization have affected the biodiversity and/or phenology of multiple taxonomic groups using both field research and data science approaches (e.g., statistics, machine learning). New students will be encouraged to develop their own research projects along with the research directions described (see examples below) or start new research directions.

Potential projects for postdocs include (but not limited to): 1) investigating the eco-evo drivers of symbiosis between nitrogen-fixing plants and soil microbes; 2) integrating different types of phenological data to study patterns and drivers of plant phenology across large spatial, temporal, and taxonomic scales; 3) studying biodiversity patterns within major urban areas across the world; 4) develop and/or apply advanced methods (statistical models or machine learning methods) to study biodiversity change. Candidates with an interest in developing research proposals together are strongly encouraged.

Applicants from various backgrounds will be considered, including biology, ecology, statistics, computer science, or related disciplines. Applicants from under-served groups in STEM are especially encouraged to apply. Prospective students and postdocs should contact Dr. Li via email (djli@arizona.edu) using “PhD position fall 2025” or “Postdoc position” as the subject header to discuss possibilities before applying to the program. In the email, please include a CV, a 1-2 page cover letter with research interests and experiences, and a scientific writing example if possible.

Tucson, AZ, offers a vibrant and welcoming atmosphere for everyone, blending rich cultural heritage with modern amenities. Nestled in the Sonoran Desert, Tucson boasts stunning natural landscapes perfect for outdoor enthusiasts, including hiking, biking, and stargazing. Home to the University of Arizona, the city provides a dynamic academic environment with top-notch research facilities and a lively campus life. Tucson's diverse culinary scene, lively arts community, and numerous festivals ensure there is always something exciting to explore. With its sunny weather and friendly community, Tucson is an ideal place to work, live, and create unforgettable memories.