David L Nieland

Subject:

MS positions in Tropical dry forest ecology at University of Puerto Rico Mayagüez

I am recruiting 3 Master's students for the Fall semester, 2015. I am especially interested in supervising projects related to (1) the influence of climatic variability on plant-insect interactions in tropical dry forests; (2) plant phylogenetic and functional diversity of tropical dry forests; and (3) the spatial distribution of urban and agricultural plant function and diversity. Field work will focus on Puerto Rico and other Caribbean islands.

Research interests within the Biology Department <<u>http://biology.uprm.edu/</u>> at UPRM <<u>http://www.uprm.edu/portada/</u>> range from genetics, cell and molecular biology, to microbial diversity and ecology of plants, vertebrates and invertebrates. The Department has an actively expanding Herbarium <<u>http://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/mapr</u>>, Invertebrate Collection <<u>http://invcol.uprm.edu/</u>>, and Center of Microscopy <<u>http://microscopico.wordpress.com/</u>>. Read about UPRM's Graduate Student Requirements <<u>http://grad.uprm.edu/oeg/InformacionSolicitantes/</u>> and then read about the Biology Department's Graduate Student Requirements <<u>http://biology.uprm.edu/graduado/requisitos_admision.html</u>>. The deadline for August enrollment is February 15.

The University of Puerto Rico Mayagüez is a Hispanic Serving Institution and a Land-Grant, Sea-Grant, Space-Grant institution which translates to diverse funding and collaborative opportunities for graduate students with NOAA <<u>http://www.noaa.gov/</u>>, NASA <<u>http://www.prsgc.upr.edu/</u>>, and other agencies. The Agricultural Experimental Station <<u>http://openpublic.eea.uprm.edu/</u>>, Laboratory for Remote Sensing <<u>http://larsip.uprm.edu/</u>> and a wide range of engineering, biotechnology, and agricultural expertise within UPRM facilitates exciting collaborations between faculty and students. Local environmental-related agencies and organizations, including Department of Natural Resources and Environments <<u>http://www.casapueblo.org/</u>>, offer exciting collaborations that cross academic-government boundaries.

Puerto Rico is a biologically and culturally diverse island. The tropical climate and proximity to local field sites allow year round field work.

Cultural (e.g., live music, dancing, festivals) and outdoor activities (e.g., surfing, hiking, and snorkeling) enrich student life.

My graduate students must have a positive attitude, a strong motivation to learn, and an excellent work ethic, in both the field and the lab. In return, they can expect dedicated mentoring in all phases of the scientific and career-building process. Fluency in Spanish is not required, but some level of Spanish competency is an asset. Women and other underrepresented minorities are especially encouraged to apply. Please email a resume and a short description of why you are interested in applying to: Catherine Hulshof, Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, University of Puerto Rico Mayagüez, Mayagüez, Puerto Rico, 00680, <u>catherine.hulshof@upr.edu</u>, <u>www.catherinehulshof.wordpress.com</u>, @BE_bilingue

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