

M.Sc. and Ph.D. graduate student positions in plant functional ecology and the ecology and evolution of mutualisms at the University of Guelph

The Maherali Lab in the Department of Integrative Biology at the University of Guelph seeks M.Sc. and Ph.D. students with interests in plant physiology, plant ecology and evolutionary biology. Our research group examines the mechanisms responsible for the evolution of functional diversity and the consequences of this evolution for communities and ecosystems.

We are specifically interested in the evolution and diversification of the mutualism between plants and arbuscular mycorrhizal (AM) fungi. This 450 million year old mutualism influences how nearly all plant lineages, including a majority of crop species, perceive and respond to their environment. The mutualism has consequences for plant physiological responses to environmental stress, competitive ability, trophic interactions with pollinators and herbivores, and the functioning of ecosystems. Students will be encouraged to explore topics in these areas when formulating their research hypotheses.

Interested applicants should submit a CV, unofficial transcript, a letter describing their research interests and career goals, and contact information for two references to Dr. Hafiz Maherali (maherali@uoguelph.ca). Further information on our lab's research interests and publications can be found at: <https://maheralilab.wordpress.com/>.

Candidates must be Canadian citizens. The successful applicant should possess a strong transcript (at least a B average in their last 2 years of study). The successful applicant will be guaranteed financial support for the duration of the degree program (2 years for M.Sc. students and 4 years for Ph.D. students). Applications will be considered for a September 2019 start date.