The Shefferson lab at the University of Tokyo is recruiting graduate students at both the MS and PhD levels. We specialize in evolutionary demography, plant/microbial evolution, and scientific computing in ecology and evolution. We are currently working on JSPS-funded projects related to the impacts of individual history on population and adaptive dynamics, the development of computing tools in population and evolutionary ecology, and symbiotic evolution in the mycorrhiza. Students applying to work in the lab should have interests broadly related to these topics. Research methods typically involve in situ monitoring and experimentation, combined with modeling and analysis based in R and/or C++.

The Shefferson lab is global in its scope, with active field sites in East Asia, North America, and Europe. Our current collaborations include projects that are global, as well as projects focused on field systems in Estonia, China, Taiwan, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Although we work with all plants and fungi, we are particularly interested in herbaceous plants and mycorrhizal fungi. Interested students may read about our projects our interests through several sources, including the Journal of Ecology blog (https://jecologyblog.com/2018/03/22/richard-shefferson/), and various media sources, such as Popular Science (https://www.popsci.com/plants-dormant-climate-change).

The Shefferson lab is located within the University of Tokyo, at the Komaba Campus. U Tokyo is home to some of the finest scientists in Japan, including ecologists and evolutionary biologists, and more Nobel laureates than you can shake a stick at. Komaba in particular has a particularly large community of ecologists and evolutionary biologists working on plants, animals, and fungi. We also offer graduate programs in both Japanese and English. Students wishing to pursue their graduate research may do so fully in English via the Graduate Program in Environmental Sciences (http://gpes.c.u-tokyo.ac.jp/), or may pursue study in Japanese via the General Systems Sciences program (http://system.c.u-tokyo.ac.jp/). Please note that there is a strict application deadline of 9 July 2021 for entry in April 2021, and that the GRE is required for consideration. If interested, please contact me, and please also explore the Shefferson lab website:

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