Imperial College London PhD opportunities - insect responses to global change factors.

The Gill research group is looking for PhD candidates to join their research group studying beneficial insect responses to environmental change and pollution and the impacts on ecological function.

Taking a genes-2-ecosystem approach, we adopt a variety of approaches spanning biological levels: molecular-physiology-behaviour-population-community_interactions. Our focal insect system is typically bees (along with their host plants), and the PhD candidate would have access to a variety of molecular tools, experimental setups, field sites and large datasets.

For chosen candidates, we will fully support the application. Whilst proposed projects can be flexible (desk-, lab- and field-based options), we have a set of projects outlined that fall under the following topics:

1. Thermal trait-based approaches for understanding Arctic plant-pollinator responses to climate change
2. Leveraging entomological museum specimens for understanding how different dimensions of biodiversity are responding to environmental change
3. Determining how changes to climate alter the impacts of pollution (e.g. pesticides) on the health and function of beneficial insects (and microbiomes)
4. Automated sensing for understanding insect distributions and dispersal across urban matrices.
5. Polli-markers: cueing into plant pollination signals for mapping pollinator function across landscapes at scale.

A variety of competitive scholarships are available, including:

Life Sciences Department PhD - Link: https://www.imperial.ac.uk/life-sciences/postgraduate/research/phd-opportunities/department-of-life-sciences-phd-studentships/

Deadline: 23:59 BST on 08 Jan 2027 / Eligibility: UK nationals (including EU candidates with UK settled status)

Imperial President's PhD Link: https://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/fees-and-funding/postgraduate-doctoral/grants-scholarships/presidents-phd/

Deadline: 23:59 BST on 02 November 2026 / Eligibility: Worldwide

Commonwealth PhD – Link: https://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/fees-and-funding/postgraduate-taught/grants-scholarships/international-scholarship-collaborations/ics/

Deadline: 16:00 hours BST on 20 October 2026 / Eligibility: please see: https://cscuk.fcdo.gov.uk/scholarships/commonwealth-phd-scholarships-for-least-developed-countries-and-vulnerable-states/

If interested: please email Rich Gill (r.gill@imperial.ac.uk) with your CV, the topic(s) of interest, and any supporting text, ASAP.

Rich will assess the candidates on a rolling basis and he will contact you if you are a suitable candidate. Emails will stop being assessed no later than Dec 21st.

Kind Regards,

Richard Gill

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Silwood Park campus

Life Sciences Department

Imperial College London

Richard J. Gill - Google Scholar