



## 12 Graduate Student Positions @ Behavioral Plasticity Research Institute

The Behavioral Plasticity Research Institute (BPRI), a newly established [Biology Integration Institute](#) funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation, is recruiting graduate students who will gain stimulating and diverse research opportunities focused on understanding the mechanisms underlying phenotypic plasticity. The BPRI research centers on understanding locust phase polyphenism, one of the most striking examples of coordinated phenotypic plasticity. This phenomenon provides a powerful comparative system for understanding how gene expression patterns and epigenetic regulation are linked to shifts in behavior, physiology, and ecology that result in outbreaks, collective movement, and mass migration. The BPRI is established to comprehensively dissect this phenomenon and use it as a model system to transform the study of phenotypic plasticity. With a commitment to improving diversity, inclusion and equity, the BPRI will train the next generation of integrative biologists who can efficiently navigate across different disciplines.



**We are pleased to announce the availability of 12 fully-funded graduate assistantships to start in Fall 2021, each with support for up to 5 years.** Prospective students will apply to the graduate programs of the participating universities (see below) to work with one or more BPRI researchers as their main PI(s). Applicants should contact PI's via email before applying to discuss the project and fit, as well as specific application process through the graduate program associate with the PI. Graduate students in the BPRI will be part of a unique learning environment where they will learn and grow to become a new generation of scientists that conduct integrative behavioral research. We encourage all students interested in this trans-level (from molecular/cell biology, to neuroscience, behavior, physiology and ecology) multi-university training and research approach to apply! More information at: <https://tinyurl.com/BPRI-RECRUIT>.

### Preferred Qualifications:

- Applicants should be able to work independently, as well as part of a team, and be highly motivated. Some previous research and/or field experience is necessary.
- Bachelor's Degree in related fields e.g. ecology, biology, entomology, genetics, microbiology, sustainability is required.

### Faculty Recruiting Graduate Students (click name for email):

- Arizona State University (1 PhD position available)
  - [Dr. Arianne Cease](#) (Associate Professor, Schools of Sustainability and Life Sciences)
  - [Dr. Rick Overson](#) (Senior Sustainability Scientist, Schools of Sustainability and Life Sciences)
- Baylor College of Medicine (4 PhD positions available)
  - [Dr. Herman Dierick](#) (Associate Professor, Department of Molecular and Human Genetics)
  - [Dr. Fabrizio Gabbiani](#) (Professor, Department of Neuroscience)
  - [Dr. Chuck Zong](#) (Assistant Professor, Department of Molecular and Human Genetics)
- Texas A&M University (4 PhD positions available)
  - [Dr. Spencer Behmer](#) (Professor, Department of Entomology)
  - [Dr. Hojun Song](#) (Associate Professor, Department of Entomology)
  - [Dr. Greg Sword](#) (Professor, Department of Entomology)
- Washington University in St. Louis (2 PhD positions available)
  - [Dr. Barani Raman](#) (Professor, Department of Bioengineering)
- Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (1 MS position available)
  - [Dr. Brittany Peterson](#) (Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences)