

## Graduate Positions in Cognitive and Behavioural Ecology

Funding is available for PhD or MSc students  
in Dr. Morand-Ferron's lab,  
University Research Chair in Cognitive Ecology.



Research on cognitive processes has historically targeted mechanistic questions via neurosciences and psychology, leaving evolutionary considerations mostly unexamined. As a consequence we still do not understand why cognitive abilities vary so drastically between or within species, or how they evolve in the wild<sup>1</sup>. Our research aims at quantifying **individual variation in cognitive abilities**, i.e. learning, memory, social information use, and investigating its causes (heritability, development, habitat) and consequences (life-history, fitness).

The proposed study system is that of wild-caught **field crickets**, *Gryllus* spp. Crickets can learn their way in a maze over repeated trials, and show significant repeatability of performance in this context<sup>2</sup>. They are also able to memorize several visual or olfactory associations for days or even their lifetime<sup>3</sup>. They have short generation times, are easy to capture in the field in Ottawa (*Gryllus pennsylvanicus*), and reproduce very well in captivity, making them great models for evolutionary and behavioural studies. I can propose projects to you or you can develop your own.

To apply: Send a 1-page cover letter, resume, and latest unofficial transcript to [jmf@uottawa.ca](mailto:jmf@uottawa.ca)

Selected candidates will be guaranteed a **paid position of 20 000\$/year** (4 years for PhD, 2 years for MSc). Canadian applicants with >80% CGPA in their last two years of studies **automatically obtain a uOttawa scholarship covering tuition fees** for the duration of their program.

International PhD students pay tuition at the level of Canadian students (~8000\$/year). Ideal candidates would have research experience in behavioural ecology, animal cognition, and/or working with insects. The candidates should be excited to join a highly-collaborative research group. There is no deadline for the application, although Skype **interviews will start in October** and positions may be filled after this time. Les candidat/es résidant au Québec peuvent être éligibles à une bourse FQRNT (date limite 2 octobre, faites vite!)

Start date: May or September 2021.

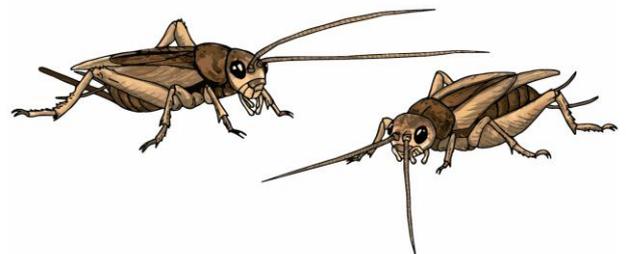
Feel free to share this ad. I look forward to reading your application letter.

### Dr Julie Morand-Ferron

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#### References:

- 1 Morand-Ferron et al. (2016) Biol Rev, 91, 367-389.
- 2 Doria, Morand-Ferron, Bertram. (2019) Anim Behav, 150, 15-25.
- 3 Mizunami et al. (2013) Handbook of Behav Neurosci, 22, 549-60.



Drawing: Florence Jean Bouchard