

## Ph.D. position in microbial ecology, evolution, and systems biology

Application review begins October 1, 2025



Who are we? We are the Quantitative Evolutionary Microbiology Lab, led by Dr. Michael Manhart. The QEM Lab aims to understand the fundamental principles of evolution in microbes. To this end we work at the interface of microbiology, ecology, evolution, and systems biology using a combination of experimental, computational, and theoretical approaches. Our lab currently consists of three postdocs, one Ph.D. student, one master's student, and two undergraduate students. We are based at Rutgers University in the Center for Advanced Biotechnology and Medicine, an interdisciplinary life science research institute. We are also affiliated with the Rutgers University Microbiome Program.

Who are we looking for? We are looking for a Ph.D. student to start in the fall of 2026. You should have a strong interest in studying the fundamental biology of microbes using experimental and computational approaches. By fall of 2026, you must have a bachelor's degree in a biological or quantitative discipline, including (but not limited to) biology, physics, chemistry, or engineering. We strongly encourage applications from a diverse range of candidates, even if you don't think you're a perfect fit.

For more information on what we look for in new lab members, please see our lab's website.

<u>What do we offer?</u> As a Ph.D. student in our lab, you will develop and conduct research projects, present at local and international meetings, write papers, and apply for funding. Current major research directions in the lab include the effect of ecological interactions on adaptation in microbial communities and the evolution of microbial population dynamics, but the position will allow for flexibility in developing new directions in accordance with your interests and the broad goals of the lab. Your research will involve a combination of experimental and computational components.

The stipend for Ph.D. students is currently \$46,000/year along with comprehensive health insurance. Ph.D. students in good standing can expect to receive full financial support (stipend, tuition, and fees) for the duration of their Ph.D. (5-6 years).

<u>Where are we?</u> Rutgers University is the eighth-oldest institution of higher education in the US and now one of the largest, with approximately 20,000 graduate students and over 8,000 faculty. Our center is based on the Piscataway/New Brunswick campus in New Jersey, part of the New York metro area and one of the most culturally and naturally rich parts of the country. We have convenient connections to the NJ Transit and Amtrak rail networks as well as to Newark Liberty International Airport.

How to apply? You must first apply for sponsorship from our lab using this link: https://forms.gle/DYhZmU9qE6jxn4LWA.

The first page consists of a few short questions about your background and interests in the position. The second page requests some biographical information including your education history. Do <u>NOT</u> submit other application materials (cover letter, CV, reference letters, etc.) by e-mail — we will request these later if needed. We will interview selected candidates by Zoom during the month of October.

If our lab decides to sponsor your application, you must then also <u>apply to an affiliated Rutgers graduate program</u> by the following due dates:

Molecular Biosciences/Microbiology and Molecular Genetics (December 1, 2025)

Ecology and Evolution (December 1, 2025)

Microbial Biology (December 15, 2025)

Physics and Astronomy (January 1, 2026)

Quantitative Biomedicine (January 15, 2026)

You must check any program-specific requirements (e.g., GRE exams) before applying.

When to apply? Apply by October 1, 2025 to receive full consideration for our lab's sponsorship, and, if selected, apply to a specific graduate program by the above dates. If you have questions, please contact Dr. Michael Manhart at mmanhart@rutgers.edu.