ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY

Osborn Memorial Laboratories, 203.432.3837
http://eeb.yale.edu
M.S., Ph.D.

Chair
Paul Turner

Director of Graduate Studies
David Vasseur

Professors Richard Bribiescas (Anthropology), Nicholas Christakis (Sociology), Michael Donoghue, Alison Galvani (Public Health), Vivian Irish (Molecular, Cellular & Developmental Biology), Thomas Near, David Post, Jeffrey Powell, Richard Prum, Eric Sargis (Anthropology), Oswald Schmitz (Forestry & Environmental Studies), David Skelly (Forestry & Environmental Studies), Stephen Stearns, Paul Turner, J. Rimas Vaisnys (Electrical Engineering), Günter Wagner

Associate Professors Forrest Crawford (Public Health), Walter Jetz, James Noonan (Genetics), Jeffrey Townsend (Public Health), David Vasseur

Assistant Professors Liza Comita (Forestry & Environmental Studies), Alvaro Sanchez, Carla Staver

Senior Lecturer Marta Martínez Wells

Lecturers Adalgisa Caccone, Linda Puth

FIELDS OF STUDY
The Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (E&EB) offers training programs in organismal biology, ecology, and evolutionary biology including molecular evolution, phylogeny, molecular population genetics, developmental evolution, and evolutionary theory.

SPECIAL ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS
Applicants should have had training in one of the following fields: biology, mathematics, chemistry, physics, statistics, and/or geology. Candidates are selected, regardless of their major, based on overall preparation for a career in research in ecology and evolutionary biology. Some, planning for careers in applied fields, may have prepared with courses in public policy, economics, and agriculture.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PH.D. DEGREE
Each entering student, in consultation with the director of graduate studies (DGS), develops a specific program of courses, seminars, laboratory research, and independent reading tailored to the student’s interests, background, and goals. There are normally no foreign language requirements. All first-year students carry out two research rotations. Students have the option of a rotation over their first summer. Students must participate in (1) E&EB 500 and E&EB 501, Advanced Topics in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology; (2) E&EB 545, a course on the responsible conduct of research; (3) weekly E&EB seminars; and (4) symposia of faculty and graduate student research. In addition, during their first two years of study, graduate students must enroll in a minimum of three additional graduate-level courses (numbered 500 and above); a grade of H must be earned in two of these. Teaching experience is regarded as an integral part of the graduate training program. All students are required to teach three courses, normally at a level 20, typically during their first two years of study.

By the middle of the fourth term of study, each student organizes a formal preprospectus consultative meeting with the student’s advisory committee to discuss the planned dissertation research. Before the beginning of the fifth term, students present and defend their planned dissertation research at a prospectus meeting, at which the department determines the viability and appropriateness of the student’s Ph.D. proposal. A successful prospectus meeting and completion of course requirements results in admission to candidacy for the Ph.D. The remaining requirements include completion, presentation, and successful defense of the dissertation, and submission of copies of the dissertation to the Graduate School and to the Center for Science and Social Science Information.

In cases where the dissertation committee decides that preliminary field work during the summer after the fourth term is necessary prior to the prospectus, the prospectus meeting can be delayed by one term. A request for a delay must come from the dissertation committee adviser and must be approved by the DGS. In these exceptional cases, admission to candidacy may not be required for registration for the third year of graduate study.

HONORS REQUIREMENT
Students must meet the Graduate School’s requirement of Honors in two courses by the end of the fourth term of study. The E&EB department also requires an average grade of at least High Pass in course work during the first two years of study.
MASTER’S DEGREE

M.S. (en route to the Ph.D.) Students must pass ten graduate-level courses. At least four courses must be taken for a grade, and students must earn Honors in two courses and maintain an overall average of High Pass. Required courses are: E&EB 500, Advanced Topics in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology; E&EB 501, Advanced Topics in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology; E&EB 545, Responsible Conduct of Research; E&EB 901, Research Rotation I; and E&EB 902, Research Rotation II. A minimum of five additional graduate-level courses (four taken for a grade) are required.

Additional information on the department, faculty, courses, and facilities is available from Deanna Brunson, Office of the Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Yale University, PO Box 208106, New Haven CT 06520-8106; e-mail, deanna.brunson@yale.edu; tel., 203.432.3837; fax, 203.432.3374; website, http://eeb.yale.edu.

COURSES