

Master's in Ecology

Faculty of Science, University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice offers a **Master's programme in Ecology** for foreign students.

Students are trained in modern **ecology research**. The courses are focused on ecological theory and analysis as well as interpretation of ecological data using **modern computational approaches**. The strongest emphasis is on **interactions among organisms** and with their environment, and consequences for the populations and functioning of communities. The workload is about five courses per semester.

Strong emphasis is laid on the students' own research throughout the duration of study. **The best projects will likely be published** with the student as the first author. The lecturers and supervisors lead high-quality research, often in close collaboration with the Czech Academy of Sciences.

Students will develop their critical thinking, acquire strong statistical foundations, excellent field skills, learn how to present their research or how to write successful grants. In addition, several field trips and practical-nature-conservation courses are included, broadening the experience and skills of the student. **Graduates will be ready to pursue a PhD in Ecology** at any university or research institute in the world.

Outline:

Guarantor: prof. Jan Lepš

Study duration: 2 years

Study fee – EU: 500 CZK per year (\approx 20 €)
Non-EU: 12 000 CZK per year (\approx 480 €)

Website:

www.prf.jcu.cz/ecology

Contact:

blazek@prf.jcu.cz

(Petr Blažek)

Admission:

New students are admitted twice a year. Admission is based on a cover letter (focused on description of Bachelor's research), proposal of Master's research project, and interview with shortlisted candidates.

Deadline for application Start of study

15 May 2026 → September 2026
31 October 2026 → February 2027



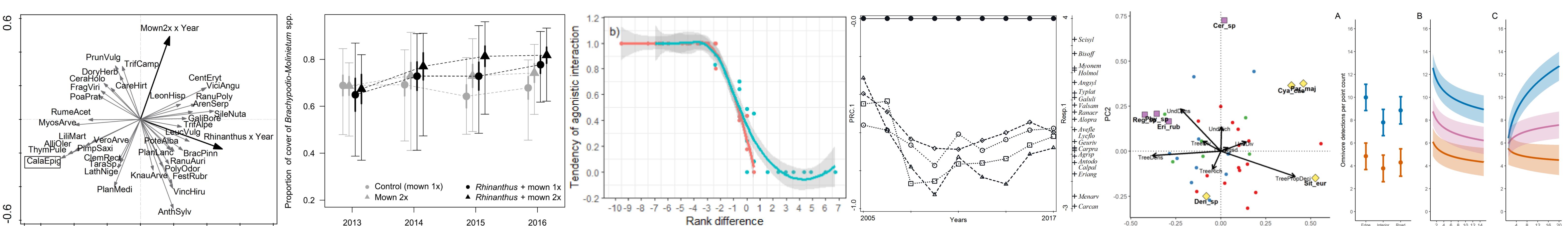
Main courses:

- Community Ecology
- Population Ecology
- Design and Analysis of Ecological Experiments
- Evolutionary Ecology
- Creative Publishing in Community Ecology

- Field Ecology
- Modern Regression Methods
- Ecology of Biological Invasions
- Tropical Ecology
- Functional Traits in Ecology
- Tutorials in Ecology

- Microbial Ecology and Genomics
- Science Communication
- Plant-Animal Interactions
- Conservation Biology
- Vegetation Dynamics
- Molecular Ecology

- Behavioural Ecology
- Restoration Ecology
- Ecology of Alpine Ecosystems
- Open Source GIS
- Biostatistics
- Advanced Ordination Methods



Example topics of research projects:

- Multitrophic interactions between spiders, birds and plants
- Stress responses of insect to presence of birds and the impact of insect's stress on lower trophic levels
- Aquatic life in post-industrial environments
- Urban environments and the heat island effect in aquatic invertebrates

- How does species loss affect the extinction risk of the remaining species?
- Successional changes of vegetation in disturbed sites (post-mining sites, grasslands, post-military areas etc)
- Effect of large herbivores on vegetation development
- Grassland hemiparasites as ecosystem engineers.
- Ecological benefits and economic sustainability of organic farming.

- Coexistence of grassland plant species depending on their functional and phylogenetic dissimilarity
- Floral traits in community assembly
- Evolution of plant chemical defences
- Vocal individuality in owl species
- Association between personality traits and cognitive abilities in jumping spiders

