

## **How to improve the public's understanding of evolution: identifying misunderstandings and designing optimal public engagement**

**Lead Supervisor:** Dr Paula Kover, Department of Biology & Biochemistry

### Project description:

Increasing public understanding of evolution is important for managing current and future societal challenges such as food security, antibiotic use and biodiversity. Public engagement can be a powerful way to increase science literacy, however, with evolutionary concepts, it is unclear what type of engagement activities are most effective; how to evaluate if the best results have been accomplished; and at what age evolutionary concepts can be used in outreach most effectively. This multidisciplinary project aims to systematically understand the reasons for evolutionary misconceptions in the UK public across age groups, and identify the best approaches for public engagement to remediate them.

### Candidate:

Applicants should hold, or expect to receive, a First Class or high Upper Second Class UK Honours degree (or the equivalent qualification gained outside the UK) in a relevant subject. A master's level qualification would also be advantageous.

### Applications:

Informal enquiries should be directed to Dr Paula Kover, [pxk20@bath.ac.uk](mailto:pxk20@bath.ac.uk).

Formal applications should be made via the University of Bath's [online application form](#).

On the application form, please ensure that you quote 'Evolution Education Trust' in the Finance section and the supervisor's name and project title in the 'Your research interests' section. Should you wish to be considered for more than project, quote the projects in order of preference and upload a separate personal statement relevant to each one.

Please see our Doctoral College website for [more information on how to apply](#) for a PhD at Bath.

**Application deadline: 30 April 2019.**

**Interviews will take place in Bath on 14 June 2019.**

**Anticipated start date: 30 September 2019.**