

The BioSci PhD Program (Ecology, Behavior and Evolution) at UCSD provides world-class doctoral research training in organismic, evolutionary and environmental biology, equipping a diverse group of trainees for a variety of scientific careers.

Our student-centered approach is based on the following **core principles**:

- Rigor, reproducibility, and responsibility
- Quality mentorships, student mental health, and well-being
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- Open science practices
- Communication and outreach
- Teaching and research as interdependent facets of engaged scholarship

The EBE Section maintains strong partnerships with research organizations such as the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance and NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center, as well as with the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and other campus units, enabling a wide range of **curricular tracks and interdisciplinary training programs**, including the Quantitative Biology (qBio) Training Program.

BioSci-EBE graduate students **begin doing thesis research in their first year**. They also have a high degree of flexibility to learn different aspects of ecology, evolution and behavior through coursework and two or more six-week rotations. Strong emphasis on **engaged mentoring** focuses on helping the students achieve a quick and productive start to their thesis.

### PRE-CANDIDACY (Years 1–3)

#### ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- ▶ Required and optional coursework
- ▶ Curricular track coursework (if applicable)
- ▶ Rotations (4 mandatory, in at least two labs, at least one with probable thesis advisor)
- ▶ Graduate Instructional Apprentice Assignments (Years 1,2,3; 1st concurrent with BGGN 500)

#### EVALUATIONS

- ▶ First-Year Comprehensive Exam (Year 1)
- ▶ Proposal Exam (Year 2)
- ▶ Advancement to Candidacy Exam (Year 3, but can be combined with the Proposal Exam in Year 2)

### AFTER ADVANCING TO CANDIDACY (Years 3–5+)

#### ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- ▶ Complete thesis research
- ▶ Write dissertation

#### EVALUATIONS

- ▶ Annual meetings with Thesis Committee
- ▶ Dissertation defense