



## Student Internship

The group of Sylvia Cremer at the IST Austria (Institute of Science and Technology Austria) is searching for a student intern to work on the project:

### “Social host defences of ants against bacterial infection of the colony”

Parasites affect the fitness of their hosts enormously, because they steal host resources and induce severe damage, often killing the host. Hosts, however, have evolved many different ways to resist parasites and minimise the detrimental effects to their fitness, these include behavioural, physical, physiological and immunological defences. Particularly the societies of social insects have evolved collective disease defences, termed "social immunity", in addition to the individual defences of all group members. We study the behavioural and immunological responses of ants against infection of colony members with *Bacillus thuringiensis*, an entomopathogenic bacterium that naturally infects its hosts via the oral route, i.e. via the ingestion of spores and their toxins.

- Interested candidates should have a strong interest in the field of **evolutionary biology/ecology** and **behavioral studies** or **immunology**. He or she should be motivated to work in a multicultural and interdisciplinary environment offered by the IST Austria.

- Candidates should apply to the **ISTernship program** (<http://ist.ac.at/research/isternship>) of the IST Austria (application deadline 15.02.2015). The scholarship covers a monthly compensation, access to health insurance, allowance for travel costs and a subsidized housing at the IST campus.

For more information on the group, please visit: <http://ist.ac.at/research-groups-pages/cremer-group/>

Please contact Barbara Milutinovic ([barbara.milutinovic@ist.ac.at](mailto:barbara.milutinovic@ist.ac.at)) for project details. Informal inquiries are welcome at any time.