Applications are invited for a three-year PhD studentship. The studentship will start on January 1st, 2017.

**Project title:** The role of circadian entrainment in rice blast disease

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**Project description:**

Magnaporthe oryzae is a filamentous ascomycete fungus, and the causative agent of rice blast disease. It is found ubiquitously in rice growing regions of the world. It is estimated that rice blast disease kills enough rice each year to feed 60 million people and is a threat to global food security. Infection of rice by M. oryzae is therefore an important system to understand in order to provide secure sources of food for a growing world population. This studentship aims to investigate the role of circadian behaviour in rice blast disease, a fundamental aspect of the physiological relationship between both partners in the pathosystem, which has not been explored to date. We will take an approach which combines molecular genetics and bioimaging to explore the importance of circadian entrainment.

**Eligibility:**

Applicants should have (at least) a first or upper second class honours degree in an appropriate subject.