



Utrecht University, Faculty of Science (UU)

Bees and Flowering Plants

We will study the amazing functions of bee behavior and the very special relation of bees with flowering plants. Why are bees so important for us and for the natural flora? The biodiversity within the group of the bees will be studied at a worldwide level. Students will actively participate in lab work, field observations and will have a chance to observe behavior inside the living colony of the honeybee.

The relation between bees and flowering plants is the general focus

At advanced level we will study bee biology (biodiversity, ecology, and behavior). The history of bee development in geological time (from about one hundred million years ago) reflects a tight “co-evolution” with the flowering plants. Since most flowering plants now depend on bees, the role of insect pollination in agriculture will be an important topic. Which bees are being used for this? Students may actively participate in field observations and learn from demonstrations in the lab and excursions.

A practical introduction in the biology and keeping of bees

Lectures and demonstrations will explain how bees live and what the differences are with other insects. How are colony-living bees being kept here and in the tropics?

A safe look inside the bee colony

Students will be able to observe safely the functioning of fantastic bee behavior and intriguing aspects of the complex social organization inside the living colony of honeybees and bumblebees.

Limited capacity

The course has a maximum number of 12 participants.

COURSE DIRECTOR: Marinus J. Sommeijer, M.J.Sommeijer@uu.nl

PERIOD: 24 July 2017 - 04 August 2017

FEE: €1250 (including housing)

€900 (excluding housing)

CREDITS: 3.5 ECTS

MORE INFORMATION: www.utrechtsummerschool.nl