ERC-funded **PhD** project in the United Kingdom open for competitive applications Eligibility: UK and EU nationals Deadline for formal applications: **14 September 2014** Start date: January 2015 (earlier start date is possible) Project: *The genetic basis of mate choice in bats* Supervisor: Stephen Rossiter (Queen Mary University of London) We are looking to recruit a PhD student for an ERC-funded project on mate choice in wild horseshoe bats. The student will study a UK population, in which parental combinations are known to be non-random and male paternity success is skewed. Mate decisions might be based on overall relatedness between partners, or on specific genetic profiles. For example, data from other taxa indicate MHC loci are important, although currently little is known about MHC diversity in bats. For this project the student will combine parentage and pedigree analyses based on neutral and functional genetic markers. This project will also involve collaboration with colleagues from the University of Bristol and Queen Mary University of London. Training will be provided in molecular methods (DNA isolation, PCR, sequencing, microsatellite genotyping, genome data assembly) and statistical analyses (pedigree construction, population genetics analyses). The student will also assist with some fieldwork. Potential applicants are encouraged to submit an informal application (CV and covering letter outlining your suitability for the position) to Stephen Rossiter (s.j.rossiter@qmul.ac.uk) before the formal deadline. For further details, with instructions on how to make a formal application, see: http://evolve.sbcs.qmul.ac.uk/rossiter/ *Essential skills, qualities and knowledge:** - A First Class or Upper Second Class degree (or equivalent) in a relevant biological discipline (biology, zoology, genetics, bioinformatics), and preferably also a Master's degree - Strong background in evolutionary biology - Experience of performing evolutionary analyses - Experience of handling large DNA sequence datasets - Strong work ethic and a positive attitude - Self-motivated, well-organized and willingness to respond to constructive criticism - Ability to work closely with others, and participate in the life and research activities of the School of Biological and Chemical Sciences at QMUL