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Department of  
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Evolutionary  
Biomechanics  
Laboratory



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## PhD Position in Biomechanics

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

London, October 2019

The Evolutionary Biomechanics Laboratory, led by Dr David Labonte at the Department of Bioengineering, Imperial College, London, invites applications for a PhD position, funded for 3.5 years at UKRI rate through a European Research Council award (fees for EU students only). We are seeking enthusiastic, kind, open, and curious candidates with a background in biomechanics, mechanical engineering, physiology, physics, entomology or related fields, and with a Master's degree (or equivalent experience) in biological, physical or engineering sciences.

The multi-disciplinary PhD project will focus on the role of physics in the foraging behaviour of leaf-cutter ants, the principal insect pest in the Neotropics. The overall goal is to link the mechanical properties of food sources with foraging performance, and food source-specific variations in foraging behaviour. The project will involve both experimental and theoretical approaches, and will be conducted in close collaboration with other labs in the UK and abroad. The successful applicant will work in a supportive team, and have the opportunity to present results at national and international conferences.

Formal applications should contain (i) a letter of motivation (1 page or less), (ii) a list of three favourite publications from other research teams (on any topic, with *short* justification for each choice), (iii) a CV, (iv) a summary of previous research experience (1/2 page or less), and contact details for at least two references. Informal inquiries may be made directly with David.

Applications should be sent directly to David in a single pdf file. The earliest start date is 01/01/20, and the latest start is 01/10/20; applications are invited until the position is filled.

Imperial College is a proud signatory to the San-Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), which means that in hiring and promotion decisions, we evaluate applicants on the quality of their work, not the journal impact factor where it is published.