

# PhD Studentship Opportunity

## **Discovery of the genetic basis of partial resistance against *Pyrenopeziza brassicae* in oilseed rape**

### **Research Area**

This project will help plant breeders to improve resistance against the most urgent UK disease problem of oilseed rape, light leaf spot caused by the fungal pathogen *Pyrenopeziza brassicae*. You will gain experience in molecular plant pathology, plant breeding and genetics using state-of-the-art laboratories, plant growth facilities and field trials in academic and industrial settings. This educational experience will facilitate career opportunities in industry and academia.

The aim of this PhD project is to improve the understanding of (i) crop resistance mechanisms against *P. brassicae* and (ii) pathogen population diversity and dynamics.

### **Programme Description**

The University invites applications for a PhD student to join our Hertfordshire Science Programme. Part-funded by the Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership, this four-year project requires a PhD student to undertake a collaborative research project with support from University academic supervisor(s) and company scientists at KWS. S/he will spend the first twelve months of the programme undertaking a Hertfordshire Knowledge Exchange Partnership (HKEP) with expected visits to KWS in Thriplow and in Germany as part of a four-year PhD research project on the light leaf spot disease, which is of interest to the company.

The Hertfordshire Science Partnership (HSP) is the University of Hertfordshire's innovative solution to growing research and innovation in Hertfordshire's life sciences industries.

**Start date:** Late September 2018

**Duration:** Total of four years

**Company** KWS, Thriplow, UK

**Funding:** Salary based on RCUK: currently £14,553 p.a. A reduced stipend will apply to non-UK/EU students.

### **Supervisor Information**

- Dr Henrik Stotz; phone: 01707 284251; email: [h.stotz@herts.ac.uk](mailto:h.stotz@herts.ac.uk)
- Prof Bruce Fitt; phone: 01707 284751; email: [b.fitt@herts.ac.uk](mailto:b.fitt@herts.ac.uk)

### **Eligibility**

Applicants are usually expected to hold a minimum of an upper-second honours BSc degree (or equivalent) in the life sciences. An MSc degree and familiarity with relevant research techniques will be beneficial.

### **Deadline and Application Process**

For further information and to apply for this role please email [hsp@herts.ac.uk](mailto:hsp@herts.ac.uk). The deadline for applications is **7<sup>th</sup> February 2018**. This advert will remain open till a suitable candidate is identified. Informal inquiries shall be directed to Dr H. Stotz.

**Interview Dates:** 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018

*If you have not heard within 3 weeks of submitting your application, you have unfortunately been unsuccessful on this occasion.*