PhD scholarship at INTA (NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA) within the framework of the project ANCYP-PICT entitled: “Interspecific interactions among fruit flies (Tephritidae) and their hosts, parasitoids, competitors and symbionts”

**DURATION:** INITIAL CONTRACT FOR 3 YEARS (Extension for up to 5 years is possible)

**INTENDED STARTING DATE:** 1ST OF APRIL 2016.

The value and tenure of the scholarship is: AR$ 138492 (AR$ 11541/month, 2016 rate, tax free)

**AREA OF RESEARCH.** During the last decade there has been an increasing interest in the many effects that symbiotic bacteria have on their insect hosts. Bacteria can affect several biological parameters, such as reproductive success, tolerance to parasitism, adult longevity, etc. This PhD project aims at studying the interaction between gut symbiotic bacteria and the South America fruit fly, *Anastrepha fraterculus*.

**SPECIFIC SUBJECT.** Although the specific questions and the experimental approaches will be decided during the first phase of the PhD, the general objectives of the project are:
1. To characterize the diversity of the gut bacteria community in *A. fraterculus* larvae and the effect of the host fruit species.
2. To determine the role of the gut microflora on the development of *A. fraterculus* larvae.
3. To evaluate the effect of the colonization process on the gut bacterial community.

**ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS.** BS or MSc interested in a multidisciplinary project that includes aspects of the following disciplines: insect ecology, physiology and behavior; microbiology, and molecular genetics. To be eligible for a scholarship, applicants are expected to have a good academic performance and, preferably, additional relevant research experience. There is the potential for the student to complete up to 2 years of the PhD in Australia via the Cotutelle program.

Closing Date: Monday 1st February 2016

Interested applicants should email a letter of interest, academic transcripts, and curriculum vitae to Dr Diego Segura (segura.diego@inta.gob.ar; diegosegura@gmail.com).