Want a master's degree? Try getting one with the Missouri Botanical Garden.

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![Water lilies in bloom near the Climatron, Saturday, Sept. 1, 2018, during the Japanese Festival at the Missouri Botanical Garden. Photo by Hillary Levin, hlevin@post-dispatch.com](image)

It's about the birds, the bees, the flowers, and...a degree.

The Missouri Botanical Garden has partnered with Miami University in Oxford, Ohio for a master's degree program, and they're accepting applications now. Coursework will begin next summer.

The Advanced Inquiry Program master's degree was created by Project Dragonfly at the university in 2009. Students take coursework online and then do field studies and work with researchers.

It's the first botanical garden to join the program, which includes seven conservation societies and zoos, including the Chicago Zoological Society/Brookfield Zoo and San Diego Zoo Global.

"This program will change the game for local educators and others interested in conservation in St. Louis in a big way," Sheila Voss, Vice President of Education at MOBOT, said in a statement. "They'll be joining a network of peers who are embracing global sustainability goals as the framework for local action.

Students will also get a chance to take Project Dragonfly's Earth Expeditions courses to apply toward their degree, which include learning in Africa, Australia, Asia and the Americas.

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