

December 13, 2018

**Ph.D. Graduate Research Assistantship in Soil Science**  
**With a Focus on Plant-Microbe Interactions**

Soil Ecology Program  
Crop and Soil Sciences Department  
North Carolina State University

**Position Summary:**

A Ph.D. level Graduate Research Assistantship is available to conduct research on the impact of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi on potassium nutrition in soybean. The research will focus on assessing if this mutualistic interaction helps soybean to acquire potassium in the field and in greenhouse. The student will also quantify the actual transport of potassium from the soil to mycorrhizal soybean roots in laboratory condition, using rubidium as an analog tracer for potassium. The student will develop skills applicable to agronomy, plant-microbe interactions, and plant biology.

The incumbent will work under the guidance of Dr. Kevin Garcia.

**Responsibilities will include:**

- Conducting laboratory, greenhouse, and field research as needed to meet the research objectives;
- Conducting data collection, analysis, preparation of peer-reviewed publications, presentation of work in local and international conferences;
- Travel to other research units throughout North Carolina as needed;
- Provide technical and academic support to other projects of the Soil Ecology Program.

**Required Qualifications:**

- M.S. in, Plant Biology, Agronomy, Soil Science, Crop Science, Molecular Biology, Microbiology or a closely related field of study that has equipped the applicant with the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform the duties and responsibilities of the position
- Excellent written and oral English skills
- Ability to meet the entrance requirements of North Carolina State University Graduate School and the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences
- Self-motivated and highly organized
- Willingness to conduct field research away from the Raleigh campus

**Preferred qualifications:**

- Strong analytical and statistical skills
- Agricultural field experience
- Research experience
- Plant/Crop Physiology courses

**Benefits:**

- Tuition
- 12-month stipend at US\$23,000 / year, for 3 years
- Health insurance

**How to apply:**

Department and University requirements are available [online](#). Applications are submitted online and will require the following materials:

- One-page statement of career goals
- Official GRE scores within the previous five years
- TOEFL scores within the previous two years, if applicable
- Transcripts from all colleges and universities previously attended.
- Three letters of recommendation

Review of candidates will begin immediately and continue until a suitable candidate is appointed. It is anticipated that the incumbent will begin during Fall 2019 semester, although earlier employment might be considered.

Contact Dr. Kevin Garcia at [kgarcia2@ncsu.edu](mailto:kgarcia2@ncsu.edu) for additional information.