

Ph.D. Graduate Assistantship

Combatting onion bacterial diseases through soil and water management

Washington State University, Mount Vernon, WA

Description of Research Opportunity:

A research assistantship is available for a Ph.D. student (preferred) or M.S. student with the Soils & Water and Vegetable Seed Pathology programs at WSU's Northwestern Washington Research and Extension Center (NWREC) in Mount Vernon, WA. The successful applicant will integrate soil science and plant pathology to investigate best practices for irrigation and soil fertility management to combat onion bacterial diseases in Washington's Columbia Basin. The student will engage with the larger, interdisciplinary, national team on an onion bacterial disease project funded by the USDA NIFA Specialty Crops Research Initiative. The student will be based at the NWREC in Mount Vernon with at least one semester spent on the main campus in Pullman, WA. The research project will entail frequent travel to the Columbia Basin where 95% of the state's onion production takes place.

Desired Qualifications:

Candidates with an M.S. degree that are interested in pursuing a Ph.D. are preferred, though candidates with a B.S. degree interested in pursuing an M.S. will also be considered. Strong technical writing ability, effective oral communication skills, and a background in the biophysical sciences are required. Prior experience with plant pathology and/or soil science will be considered favorably. Students are expected to exhibit team work and contribute to other projects in the Soils & Water program and Vegetable Seed Pathology program.

Contact:

Please contact Dr. Gabriel LaHue or Dr. Lindsey du Toit by e-mail (gabriel.lahue@wsu.edu; dutoit@wsu.edu).

Apply:

Interested persons should apply to the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences (CSS). Please visit CSS at <http://css.wsu.edu>. The priority application deadlines are July 1st, 2019 for the Spring 2020 term and January 10th, 2020 for the Fall 2020 term.

Assistantship Details: Graduate assistantships are formal half-time, academic-year appointments accompanied by a summer stipend, with an annual estimated total of \$23,754. Graduate assistants are also provided tuition waivers, as well comprehensive health (medical/dental) insurance, and are eligible for additional support through scholarships, fellowships and travel grant awards. Qualifying recruits may be nominated by the program

director for a **prestigious ARCS fellowship** which provides a \$17,500 annual award in addition to the research assistantship.

