Description of the Opportunity:
The Wheat Breeding and Genetics programs at Washington State University and the USDA-ARS are recruiting motivated graduate students to help design, complete, and communicate original research on genetics of resistance to diseases/pests, grain quality, and tolerance to abiotic stresses. The research assistants will conduct experiments to identify and genetically characterize sources of resistance/tolerance to these yield-limiting and/or quality factors; a combination of advanced molecular biology/genetics laboratory techniques, field-based evaluations, and plant physiology and pathology techniques are developed or employed to meet research goals. Recent research topics have included high-throughput phenotyping as it relates to selecting in a breeding program, genomic selection methodologies, genetic dissection of pre-harvest sprouting and late-maturity alpha-amylase, and QTL analysis for stripe rust and Hessian fly resistance.

Contact: Dr. Arron Carter (Winter Wheat Breeding and Genetics; ahcarter@wsu.edu); Dr. Michael Pumphrey (Spring Wheat Breeding and Genetics; m.pumphrey@wsu.edu); or Dr. Kim Garland-Campbell (USDA Wheat Breeding and Genetics; Kim.garland-campbell@usda.gov)

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 deadline for Fall 2022 entry is January 10, 2022.

Assistantship Details: Graduate assistantships (research and teaching) are formal half-time, academic-year appointments accompanied by a summer stipend, with annual compensation of approximately $22,908 (MS) or $24,208 (PhD). Graduate assistants also receive tuition waivers, as well as comprehensive health (medical/dental) insurance, and are eligible for additional support through scholarships, fellowships and travel grant awards.

Qualifying recruits may be eligible for the prestigious ARCS fellowship of $17,500 beyond the base assistantship stipend.