PhD Graduate Assistantship in Soil Science

Department of Crop and Soil Sciences
Washington State University, Pullman, WA

Description of the Opportunity: The Soils & Water program at WSU’s Northwestern Washington Research and Extension Center (NWREC) in Mount Vernon, WA, is seeking a highly motivated PhD student for a project investigating the effect that management practices to build soil health and micronutrient applications have on grain nutritional quality. The project is funded by a USDA NIFA Sustainable Agricultural Systems grant and much of this work will take place in a recently initiated Long-Term Agricultural Research and Extension (LTARE) site funded by the Washington State Soil Health Initiative. The student will be responsible for assessing soil physical health indicators, soil nutrient profiles, and grain nutritional quality and will be part of a collaborative team that includes soil scientists, agronomists, plant breeders, food scientists, medical school researchers, economists, and agricultural educators. Most graduate students at the NWREC are based in Mount Vernon for the duration of their graduate school experience, though options to spend a semester on the main campus in Pullman may be available.

Desired Qualifications: Successful completion of a B.S. degree in a related field, strong technical writing ability, and effective oral communication skills are required. Preference will be given to applicants with an M.S. degree, prior field and laboratory experience in soil science, and a strong statistical background. Students are expected to exhibit teamwork and contribute to other projects within the NWREC Soils & Water program.

Contact: Please contact: Gabe LaHue (gabriel.lahue@wsu.edu)

Apply: Interested persons should apply to the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences (CSS). Please visit CSS at http://css.wsu.edu. Applicants for either Spring 2022 or Fall 2022 will be considered. 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 $22,908 (MS) or $24,108 (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.