

Graduate Assistantship (doctoral): Southern Bottomland Hardwood Stand Dynamics

Position

A 12-month funded T.L.L. Temple graduate assistantship (doctoral) is available beginning fall 2019 under the direction of Dr. Rebecca Kidd within the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture (<http://atcofa.sfasu.edu/>) at Stephen F. Austin State University. SFA (more than 13,000 students) is located in the historic city of Nacogdoches, Texas (population approximately 33,000) within the East Texas Pineywoods Ecoregion.

This assistantship is for three years and carries an annual stipend of \$25,000 plus health insurance assistance (if needed). An opportunity for summer 2019 employment is available for the student to begin field research. Funding is available to support travel to conduct field research and to present research findings at national and regional-level conferences. Although the State of Texas does not allow for direct tuition waivers, out-of-state students awarded assistantships only pay the Texas resident tuition rate. To further help defray tuition costs, \$2,000 scholarships are also available through this program for qualified students. In addition to research, there also will be opportunities for the candidate to gain teaching experience.

Research Focus

The successful applicant will conduct research quantifying bottomland hardwood stand dynamics along a flooding and gap-creation disturbance gradient in East Texas. The doctoral student will investigate effects of abiotic (flooding and drought: frequency, intensity, duration; light) and biotic factors on density and composition of overstory, midstory, understory and ground strata adjacent to the Neches, Angelina, Sabine and Attoyac Rivers. Further emphasis will be placed on quantifying temporal and spatial patterns (e.g., microtopographical position and location relative to canopy gaps) of natural regeneration establishment and recruitment.

Desired Qualifications

Applicants with a strong interest in hardwood regeneration ecology, disturbance ecology and stand dynamics are highly desired. Candidates must have earned an M.S. in Forestry or a related-subject area by the start date. Applicants must have an overall minimum GPA of 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale) for master's degree coursework and a minimum GRE score of 300. If English is not the applicant's native language, he/she must demonstrate English proficiency. The minimum score required to demonstrate English proficiency on the TOEFL is at least 550 on the paper-based version or 79 IBT (internet-based). Ability to conduct field work in harsh conditions (e.g., heat, insects, standing water, snakes) and maintain a positive attitude is required.

How to Apply

Review of applications will begin March 1 and continue until the position is filled. Interested applicants should submit a cover letter detailing your research interests and experience, CV, GRE scores (if available), unofficial undergraduate and graduate transcript/s, contact information for three potential academic/professional references, and an example of your writing to Dr. Rebecca Kidd via email (kiddkr@sfasu.edu).

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