

Research Technician at the Kansas Biological Survey at University of Kansas

Job Title: Research Technician
Regular/Non-Exempt-Hourly
FTE: 40 hours weekly
Supervisor: James Bever

Position Overview: A full time lab/field research assistant position is available to support research in the ecology and evolution of plant-microbiome interactions at the University of Kansas (Lawrence, KS). The research assistant will be responsible for coordinating and maintaining projects associated with field experiments, greenhouse and/or growth chamber experiments investigating the role of AM fungal communities on plant species turnover and coexistence; the influence of pathogens on plant diversity; and microbiome mediated adaptations along a broad precipitation gradient. The projected start date for this position is October 15, 2017.

Job Description:

55% - Monitoring and sampling field experiments; set up, maintain, harvest and analyze plant microbiome experiments in the greenhouse, growth chambers, and field settings; managing field crews necessary for fieldwork.

10% - Collecting seed, germinating, transplanting experimental plants into pots and in the field as well as sowing seeds directly into field experiments.

10% - Mixing and sterilizing native soil for culture and pot experiments.

15% - Starting, checking, maintaining arbuscular mycorrhizal, possibly including some maintenance of our arbuscular mycorrhizal fungal collection. 10% - Entering results into databases and maintaining data from experiments.

Required Qualifications:

1. Bachelor's degree in biology, botany, ecology, agronomy, range science or related field.
2. At least 1 year of experience in field research as a field worker, field/lab technician, or investigator.
3. Demonstrated knowledge of plant identification through experience and/or education.
4. Prior experience using a microscope and other sensitive laboratory equipment through education or education.
5. Demonstrated knowledge through education or experience with sterile technique.
6. Experience in the use of word processing and spreadsheet software (Microsoft Office).
7. Good written communication skills as demonstrated by application materials.

Position Requirements: Must have physical ability to work in greenhouse and in the field conditions (extreme environmental conditions of heat, cold, wind, etc.) and have the ability to life up to 25 pounds with or without accommodation.

Preferred Qualifications:

1. Master's degree or higher in biology, botany, ecology, agronomy, range science or related field.
2. Working knowledge of Midwestern and/or Great Plains flora.
3. Experience propagating plants from seed.
4. Experience in database management.

Additional Candidate Instructions: A complete application consists of the online application, resume, and a cover letter outlining specifically how required and preferred qualifications are met. Application review begins September 18, 2017. To ensure consideration, apply prior to the review date.

Contact Information for Candidates: Peggy Schultz at pschultz@ku.edu

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