Position #: 2017-001

M.S. Assistantship: Effects of genetics and stress on forest tree function and cellulose quality

School of Forestry & Natural Resources, University of Arkansas at Monticello

The School of Forestry & Natural Resources at the University of Arkansas at Monticello is seeking applicants for a M.S. Assistantship available beginning August 16, 2017 contingent upon funding. The assistantship is half time and carries an annual stipend of $15,000 plus tuition.

Project: Novel bioproducts are being developed that utilize renewable cellulose from trees. This project seeks to evaluate the impacts of genetics and environmental stress (e.g., nutrient deficiency, and excess or insufficient water) on the quality of wood for the production of cellulosic nanocrystals, as well as the impacts of environment stress on tree physiology. The research will involve manipulative plant experiments, collection and analysis of data, and publication of results in peer reviewed journals. The successful applicant will learn a variety of physiological techniques and analytical laboratory skills relevant to assessing both cellulose quality and plant function, including relevant biochemical and molecular techniques. The project will be the basis for the applicant's M.S. thesis.

Requirements: Applicants must have a 2.7 overall undergraduate GPA or 3.0 GPA in the last 60 semester hours of undergraduate courses and satisfactory GRE scores. A B.S. degree in a natural resources-related field is also required. Applicants must have a valid U.S. driver’s license or obtain the same within 60 days of starting employment. Overnight travel is required as well as the ability to work outdoors in all weather conditions.

Location and Facilities: The School of Forestry & Natural Resources is located in Monticello, Arkansas in the southeastern portion of the state. The Arkansas Forest Resources Center is also headquartered here, and is administered by the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. The Arkansas Forest Resources Center is the research and extension arm for forest-based programs within the State. Additionally, the USFS Arkansas Forestry Sciences Lab is located at the School. The School and Center maintain several state-of-the-art laboratories (hydrology, soil, quantitative analysis, silviculture, wildlife ecology & management) available for graduate research and education.

Application & Additional Information: Graduate program and application information can be found at http://www.uamont.edu/sfnr. Applicants must be admitted to the University of Arkansas at Monticello and apply to the School of Forestry & Natural Resources before they can be considered for an assistantship. Applicants must submit all GRE scores, official transcripts, a statement of interests, and three letters of recommendation. Please indicate the position number above on all application materials and inquiries. For additional information, please contact:

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The position is available until a qualified applicant is selected.