



**Department of Agriculture
& Environmental Sciences**

College of Agriculture

Two Graduate Student Assistantships in Forest Ecology

Tennessee State University's Department of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences is pleased to announce graduate research assistantships to support two M.S. students in conducting research in Forest Ecology. The students will be advised by Dr. Sarah McCarthy-Neumann (sneumann@tnstate.edu) whose research lab investigates the role of plant-soil feedback (PSF) on forest community dynamics. Potential research projects include: soil biota influenced light-gradient partitioning, PSF and oak/hickory regeneration failure, and PSF and disturbance interactions. The assistantship can start as early as Fall 2022 or begin with Spring 2023 enrollment. These positions are fully funded 12-month GRA positions for 2 years that includes a competitive monthly stipend.

We seek applicants with a high level of enthusiasm for field and greenhouse research that contributes to understanding plant-soil feedback as an important mechanism underlying forest community dynamics. The students will have access to substantial existing data from past and ongoing studies, and network of unique study sites. Successful applicants will be expected to work independently as well as collaboratively as a member of the research group, develop independent research questions related to the overall project goals, conduct field work sometimes in remote locations, perform detailed laboratory analyses with a high level of precision, and publish research results.

Qualifications:

- A bachelor's degree in plant/forest ecology, forestry, environmental science, botany or related field. Previously attained and maintained exceptional academic standing
- Strong communication skills (verbal and written)
- Experience in report-writing or drafting research articles
- A self-motivated, well-organized, adaptive to collaborative work

Preference will be given to applicants with:

- Experience with running experiments and advanced statistical analysis
- Peer-reviewed publications

How to Apply:

If interested, please submit the following documents in a single PDF file to Dr. Sarah McCarthy-Neumann (Assistant Professor of Forest Ecology) at sneumann@tnstate.edu

1. A letter of interest (maximum 2 pages);
2. Curriculum vitae;
3. Unofficial copies of transcripts (undergraduate or higher);
4. Unofficial GRE scores (and TOEFL scores for international students);
5. List of three references (name, title, affiliation, email address, and phone number);
6. Publication samples (optional).

Review of the applications will begin immediately and will continue until the positions are filled. To be accepted into the graduate program, potential students must also apply through the TSU Graduate School at <http://go.tnstate.edu/inquiryform>. When applying, please indicate an interest in the Forest Ecology Graduate Assistantship in the required Statement of Interests. Applications must be completed by July 15, 2022 for Fall 2022 or November 1, 2022 for Spring 2023 enrollment.

Please visit

https://www.tnstate.edu/agriculturalprograms/degrees/environmental_sciences_ms_degree.aspx for specific information regarding the Environmental Sciences graduate program.

Tennessee State University is an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status or any other characteristic protected by law. The Department of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences is committed to promoting diversity in research. Members of underrepresented groups in STEM fields are highly encouraged to apply. We thank all applicants, but only those selected will be contacted