

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Department of Crop Sciences
Visiting Research Specialist in Agriculture (Crop Sciences)

The Department of Crop Sciences is seeking candidates for a Visiting Research Specialist in Agriculture to perform a variety of molecular biology tasks in support of ongoing projects at the Soybean Diseases Laboratory at the National Soybean Research Center. Duties will include growth of bacterial and fungal cultures; maintenance of isolates and cryo-preservation; purification of DNA from plant, fungal, and bacterial sources; cloning of target DNA sequences; analysis of clones by PCR and electrophoresis; analysis of sequence and fragment size data; preparation of routine growth media, buffers and biochemical solutions; use of pH meters, centrifuges, biocontainment and sterile transfer hoods, autoclaves, incubators, pipettors, and other common laboratory equipment; cleaning of laboratory glassware; accurate and timely recording of research results; periodic reporting of progress to project managers and cooperators. Adherence to all University workplace and laboratory safety standards and support of laboratory requirements for BSL-2 research will be required.

Additional duties may include assisting research scientists in organizing, conducting and evaluating experiments in the greenhouse, growth chambers, and seasonally in the field; inoculation of plants with plant-pathogenic fungi; microscopic examination of slide-mounted specimens; performance of ELISA and other immunological assays for pathogen detection; biochemical extraction of fungal tissues for use as antigens; purification and analysis of polyclonal antibodies; maintaining resources used in research. Overnight travel will not be required, but day travel to research plots and sampling locations within Illinois may occasionally be requested.

Candidates must have a BS or BA degree in molecular biology, microbiology, or related field, with coursework and/or experience in skills fundamental to the position. Work experience in plant pathology, biochemistry, or molecular biology, either as a student or postgraduate, is preferable. The individual will work closely with and alongside others in the laboratory, and must be cooperative and flexible in the team environment. Careful attention to detail and the ability to lift 40 pounds (in order to assist with greenhouse work and other duties) is required. Proven skills in effectively communicating research results by oral and written presentations is highly desirable.

This is a full-time academic, non-tenure track position funded by grant monies on a year-to-year basis. (Depending on funding, it is possible for this position to become regular). Salary is commensurate with training and experience with a comprehensive benefits package for eligible employees.

Please cite announcement number 3/08A-11786 when applying. The position is available May 10, 2008 or when a suitable candidate is available. Applications are not considered complete without an e-mail address. To assure full consideration, a cover letter, current resume, valid e-mail address, copies of transcripts and contact information of three professional references must be submitted by May 10, 2008 to the following address:

Sue Panepinto, Department of Crop Sciences, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1102 South Goodwin Avenue, Urbana, Illinois 61801, Phone 217-333-9479, Fax 217-333-2475. *Electronic submission of materials to:* cropsoci@uiuc.edu

For additional information please contact Dr. Glen Hartman, Department of Crop Sciences, Phone: 217-244-3258; e-mail: ghartman@uiuc.edu

Information on the Department of Crop Sciences is found at <http://www.cropsoci.uiuc.edu>

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