Post Doctoral Associate in Climate Adaptation and Sustainability

University of Texas at Austin, Section of Integrative Biology
Position stationed at the USDA-ARS Grassland, Soil and Water Research Lab., Temple, TX

The University of Texas Section of Integrative Biology has an opening for a full-time post doctoral research associate located at the USDA-ARS laboratory at Temple, TX under the direction of Dr. Philip Fay (http://www.ars.usda.gov/spa/gswrl/pfay). The post doc will conduct collaborative and individual research linking morphology and physiology with gene expression in switchgrass (Panicum virgatum), to identify traits underlying climatic adaptation and sustainability in bioenergy feedstock production. Research will prioritize examining linkages between above- and belowground traits in switchgrass genotypes from broad climatic origins in a long-term precipitation legacy experiment, and relate traits to ecosystem-scale processes and to gene expression studies conducted by collaborators. Research will also contribute to phenotype studies in switchgrass mapping populations.

Applicants should have a PhD in ecology, biology, agronomy, forestry, or related field with specialization in plant ecology. Research experience on topics related to local adaptation, genotype x environment interactions, and linking traits to higher-order processes is strongly preferred. The successful applicant will have technical skill in plant ecophysiology, soil moisture, soil temperature, and other micrometeorological parameters, a strong publication record commensurate with experience, strong organizational and communications skills, and an ability to work in an interdisciplinary collaborative setting. The position is initially for one year, and renewable for two additional years, contingent upon satisfactory performance.


Applications will be reviewed beginning May 9, 2016. Review will continue until a suitable candidate is found.

Starting date: Negotiable.

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