

Multiple M.S. Assistantships in Wetland Ecology – Nicholls State University, Louisiana

The Wetland Plant Biology Lab in the Department of Biological Sciences at Nicholls State University (www.nicholls.edu/biology) is seeking to fill multiple M.S. positions beginning in the summer/fall of 2016. Students will earn a M.S. degree in Marine and Environmental Biology.

- 1) Two 2-year positions are available to participate in a condition assessment of 40 wetlands across the state of Louisiana, which is part of a larger EPA-funded project to assess the status of wetlands across the United States. Potential research projects include quantifying invasive plant species distributions, comparing soil carbon stocks across different wetland types, or developing an independent research project of the successful applicants choosing.
- 2) One 2-year position is available investigating the long-term impacts of the Deep Water Horizon oil spill on the ecological structure and function of the plant-microbial-benthic complex in Louisiana salt marshes. This research is collaborative in nature and may focus either on the effects of oiling on soil carbon density, the effects of macro-invertebrate density on plant recovery, or other possible topics of interest.
- 3) Up to two 2-year positions are available investigating the long-term (~20 year) effects of nutrient enrichment on soil carbon dynamics in coastal wetlands. Specific research projects will focus on identifying how enhanced nutrient supply influences wetland plant growth and decay patterns as related to organic matter quality and microbial activity.

For more information about these projects, contact Dr. Sean Graham at sean.graham@nicholls.edu.

Minimum Qualification:

- B.S. in Ecology, Soil Science, Marine/Coastal Science, Environmental Science, or related field
- undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or greater
- GRE scores of 300 or greater (Q+V)
- highly motivated and capable of working independently

Preferred Qualification:

- undergraduate research experience
- experience driving/trailing a boat
- strong desire to publish research

Salary/Stipend: \$18,000/year, plus full tuition coverage.

To Apply: email the following information to Dr. Sean Graham (sean.graham@nicholls.edu)

- 1) a short cover letter describing research experience and interests
- 2) CV or resume
- 3) transcripts (unofficial is acceptable)
- 4) GRE scores (and TOEFL scores if applicable)
- 5) contact information for three professional references

Closing Date: Applications will be reviewed as they are received. The application deadline for assistantships starting in the fall semester is March 26. For additional details regarding University Admissions, see <http://www.nicholls.edu/biology-graduate/application-information/>.