

From: Sarah L Strauss
Subject: Graduate position: Soil microbial ecology PhD at Southwest Florida Research and Education Center

A Ph.D. Research Assistantship is available in the Soil Microbiology Lab (Soil and Water Sciences department) at the University of Florida/IFAS Southwest Florida Research and Education Center (SWFREC) in Immokalee, FL. Research will focus on examining the interactions of the soil microbial community with agricultural production and crop health. This includes topics such as development and influence of rhizosphere microbial communities, and the effect of biostimulant amendments on the soil microbial community composition and function. The candidate is expected to work in the laboratory as well as in the greenhouse and field. Field and greenhouse work will involve periods of working under hot and humid conditions. The research focus will be on citrus production, but may also include vegetable production systems. Laboratory experimentation will include metagenomics methods and analyses. There will also be opportunities to develop extension experience by providing results to stakeholders.

A Master's degree in soil science, microbiology, plant biology, or a related discipline from an accredited institution and experience in microbial ecology, next-generation sequencing, and/or bioinformatics is preferred. Successful candidates will have a desire to serve the agricultural industry.

The SWFREC is located in the heart of citrus and vegetable production in Florida and provides a unique opportunity to combine scientific research with the needs of the industry. Visit the SWFREC webpage at swfrec.ifas.ufl.edu for additional information.

Interested candidates should contact Dr. Sarah Strauss (strauss@ufl.edu) for additional information. Complete application packets are due Feb. 1, 2017. Details regarding application are at soils.ifas.ufl.edu/academics/graduate-studies/apply.

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