

Six Graduate Student Assistantships

The Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture (PSLA) at the University of Connecticut (UConn) is seeking for six graduate students, at the Master's level, to provide aspiring scientists with opportunities to integrate knowledge generation with outreach. The cohort of students will take courses in technical areas, program evaluation, communication, and leadership. Each student will be mentored by a faculty advisor to conduct a research project and write a thesis.

About this program: This training integrates research, education, and extension to enrich and strengthen the educational opportunities available to graduate students. Graduate students will be trained in all components of the life cycle of an agricultural research project—"from the lab to the farm." This cycle includes not only the identification of a problem, formulation of a hypothesis, original data collection and analysis, and the communication of findings with the scientific community, but also identifies the pathways for output commercialization and adoption, communications with extension, industry and policy developers in order to identify pathways that would result in changes in the real world. Thus, this specialized training is designed to train leaders in agriculture.

Research Projects:

1. Assessing management strategies to use low-quality water to irrigate crops in controlled environment agriculture (specific areas may include microbial or chemical water contaminants).
2. Strategies to establish cover crops in New England for minimizing soil nitrogen and phosphorus losses.
3. Effective establishment of native plants on roadsides in New England.
4. Molecular genetic regulation of cannabidiol and minor cannabinoid biosynthesis in hemp cannabis.
5. Molecular characterization of plant development to facilitate growth and production.
6. Evaluating the impact of urban design trends on heat vulnerability and resilience in Connecticut.

Eligibility:

- Students must meet UConn's Graduate School¹ and PSLA² admission requirements.
- Be U.S. citizen or national.
- Have a strong interest in connecting science with societal impact.

To apply:

Send curriculum vitae, transcripts (*unofficial are acceptable*), and a 1000-word statement indicating why are you interested in applying to this program. Indicate that you are applying to the National Needs Foundation program and indicate your research area preference. Send complete application via email to Professor Julia Kuzovkina (jkuzovkina@uconn.edu) by February 25, 2023.

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¹ <https://grad.uconn.edu/admissions/requirements/>

² <https://psla.uconn.edu/graduate/>