



Soil and Water Sciences
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**POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT # 0001-3314
REQUISITION # 502333**

Title: Assistant Professor - Microbial Chemical Ecologist

Location: Soil and Water Sciences Department
University of Florida
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS)
Gainesville, Florida

Salary: Commensurate with Qualifications and Experience

Review Date: For full consideration, candidates should apply and submit additional materials by August 15, 2017. The position will remain open until a viable applicant pool is determined.

Duties and Responsibilities

This is a 12-month tenure-accruing position that will be 30% teaching (College of Agricultural and Life Sciences), 70% research (Florida Agricultural Experiment Station) and 0% extension (Florida Cooperative Extension Service), available in the Soil and Water Sciences Department, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, at the University of Florida. This assignment may change in accordance with the needs of the unit. This position requires specialization in microbial chemical ecology, including interactions between prokaryotes and between prokaryotes and eukaryotes. The incumbent's research and education program will focus on microbial chemical interactions within soil and water systems. The successful candidate will establish a strong well-funded collaborative research and education program at the intersection of analytical and physical chemistry, microbiology, genomics and bioinformatics within soil-water-plant systems.

Examples of research questions and approaches that may include; identification of the cues exchanged by eukaryotic hosts and microorganisms; identification of microbial effectors of plant responses and plant signals, and nutritional cues perceived by microorganisms in the plant production environment; mechanistic understanding of the factors that drive prokaryote-eukaryote interactions in soil and/or aquatic ecosystems; chemical ecology of the interactions between microorganisms in microbial communities of environmental or agricultural significance; characterization of the impact of pesticides, emerging contaminants (trace organics,

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nanomaterials), and antibiotics on soil, water, and rhizosphere microorganisms (including propagation of antibiotic resistance determinants chemical aspects of elicitation of viable but nonculturable (VBNC) bacteria, and environmental signals that impact the function and activities of microorganisms). The incumbent will use state-of-the-art analytical and quantitative approaches to define behavior and transformations of chemical signals to assess and model biological and chemical networks within terrestrial ecosystems.

Tenure will accrue in the Soil and Water Sciences Department. The faculty member will actively participate in undergraduate and graduate education by chairing graduate committees, serving on graduate committees, supervising thesis and dissertation research, supervising undergraduate research, and publishing the results with his/her graduate students. The faculty member will seek contract and grant funding actively to support his/her program. The faculty member will engage in Extension activities in his or her program area.

The incumbent is expected to teach on-campus and distance education graduate and undergraduate courses such as ecology of water-borne pathogens, and soil and water microbial ecology and/or related topics as assigned by the Department Chair. The successful candidate will engage in scholarly activities related to instruction, including teaching undergraduate and/or graduate courses, advising and mentoring undergraduate and graduate students, participating in curriculum revision and enhancement, seeking funding for the teaching program, supervising undergraduate and graduate research and creative work, publishing teaching-related scholarship, producing learning tools, and engaging in professional development activities related to teaching and advising. Faculty members are encouraged to support and participate in the CALS Honors Program, distance education, and international education.

Because of the IFAS land-grant mission, all faculty are expected to be supportive of and engaged in all three-mission areas—Research, Teaching and Extension—regardless of the assignment split specified in the position description.

Qualifications

Required:

A doctorate (foreign equivalent acceptable) in soil and water sciences with specialization in microbiology, biochemistry, molecular ecology, or a closely related discipline is required. Candidates should have demonstrated skills in verbal and written communication, interpersonal relationships, and procurement of extramural funding. Candidates must be supportive of the mission of the Land-Grant system. Candidates must also have a commitment to IFAS core values of excellence, diversity, global involvement, and accountability.

Preferred:

Postdoctoral experience is desirable. A strong background in bioinformatics and proficiency with the application of genomic tools are preferred. Training and post-doctoral experience in working with interdisciplinary teams and in the use of state-of-art-techniques and instrumentation are highly desirable. Candidates should have the demonstrated ability or potential to develop integrated teaching, research and/or extension programs in the discipline.

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Background Information:

The SWSD has established itself as a leader in teaching, research, and extension/outreach programs in management and restoration of these resources. The interdisciplinary nature of SWSD programs provides students and faculty an opportunity to conduct basic and applied research at multiple (molecular to landscape) scales to solve environmental problems, protect, manage land, and water resources. Details about the SWSD can be found at <http://soils.ifas.ufl.edu>

The University of Florida (<http://www.ufl.edu>) is a Land-Grant, Sea-Grant, and Space-Grant institution, encompassing virtually all academic and professional disciplines, with an enrollment of more than 53,000 students. UF is a member of The Association of American Universities. The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (<http://ifas.ufl.edu>) includes the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (<http://cals.ufl.edu>), the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station (<http://research.ifas.ufl.edu>), the Florida Cooperative Extension Service (<http://extension.ifas.ufl.edu>), the College of Veterinary Medicine (<http://www.vetmed.ufl.edu>), the Florida Sea Grant program (<http://www.flseagrant.org/>), and encompasses 16 on-campus academic departments and schools, 12 Research and Educational Centers (REC) located throughout the state, 6 Research sites/demonstration units administered by RECs or academic departments, and Florida Cooperative Extension Service offices in all 67 counties (counties operate and maintain). The School of Natural Resources and Environment is an interdisciplinary unit housed in IFAS and managed by several colleges on campus. IFAS employs over 2500 people, which includes approximately 900 faculty and 1200 support personnel located in Gainesville and throughout the state. IFAS, one of the nation's largest agricultural and natural resources research and education organizations, is administered by a Senior Vice President and four deans: the Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, the Dean for Extension and Director of the Florida Cooperative Extension Service, the Dean for Research and Director of the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, and the Dean for the College of Veterinary Medicine. UF/IFAS also engages in cooperative work with Florida A&M University in Tallahassee.

Employment Conditions

This position is available **August 15, 2017**, and will be filled as soon thereafter as an acceptable applicant is available. Compensation is commensurate with the education, experience, and qualifications of the selected applicant.

Nominations

Nominations are welcome. Nominations need to include the complete name and address of the nominee. This information should be sent to:

Please refer to Requisition # 502333

Dr. Andrew Ogram
Chair, Search and Screen Committee
Soil and Water Sciences Department
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611

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Telephone: 352-294-3138
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Application Information

Individuals wishing to apply should go online to <http://explore.jobs.ufl.edu/cw/en-us/job/502333> and submit:

- Application
- Cover letter that states applicant's interest in the position and qualifications relative to the credentials listed above
- Curriculum vitae
- Contact information (including email addresses) for four individuals willing to write letters of recommendation
- Unofficial transcripts

Final candidate will be required to provide official transcript to the hiring department upon hire. A transcript will not be considered "official" if a designation of "Issued to Student" is visible. Degrees earned from an education institution outside of the United States are required to be evaluated by a professional credentialing service provider approved by National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES), which can be found at <http://www.naces.org/>.

The University of Florida is an Equal Opportunity Institution dedicated to building a broadly diverse and inclusive faculty and staff. The selection process will be conducted in accord with the provisions of Florida's 'Government in the Sunshine' and Public Records Laws. Persons with disabilities have the right to request and receive reasonable accommodation.

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