Research Technician – Crop Physiology & Beneficial Crop Microbes

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Position covered by the Collective Agreement with USW Local 4120

Research Technician – Crop Physiology & Beneficial Crop Microbes

Department of Plant Agriculture, Ontario Agricultural College

Hiring #: 2019-0413

Please read the Application Instructions [1] before applying

This position provides technical support to two research programs [Crop Physiology and Beneficial Microbes for Crops], and currently reports directly to the faculty leaders who manage these programs [Prof. Hugh Earl and Prof. Manish Raizada, respectively]. The candidate will manage all technical aspects of these programs, focusing on plant growth as well as laboratory safety:

Field and Greenhouse trials (80%)

For both research programs, the successful candidate will be responsible for coordinating greenhouse and field trials, preparing field plots, including planting, fertilizer applications, spraying, harvesting, data collection and processing and setting up and maintaining controlled environment trials. The incumbent will provide support to personnel (e.g. graduate students) with logistical matters including equipment, transportation, ordering, space reservations, and required forms. They will also provide training and functional guidance on operation of field equipment and scientific instrumentation, data collection and analysis procedures and adherence to lab and field safety standards. In addition, they will maintain/organize seed stocks and assist with seed import permits.

Laboratory Safety and Equipment Support (15%)

The successful candidate will serve as the Laboratory Safety Officer overseeing all aspects of lab safety including chemical inventory and biosafety permits. They will also serve as the Laboratory Equipment Officer responsible for training all new personnel in lab equipment use, facilitate equipment repairs, and oversee day-to-day maintenance.

Other duties (5%)

On an ad-hoc basis and at the request of the Department Chair the incumbent may serve on various department governance committees, contribute technical support to the teaching program and/or participate in outreach activities.

Requirements of this position include:

- A University Degree in a related field, with a Master’s Degree in Plant Science (M.Sc.) or related field being strongly preferred, along with at least two (2) years of related experience having one (1) year of extensive related research experience or a combination of relevant education and experience.
- Valid Ontario G driver's license
- Ontario Pesticide Applicator’s Permit
- In-depth knowledge of experimental design and data analysis, data entry and archiving standards, field plot layout methods, crop scouting and pest control
- Ability to safely and effectively operate a variety of plot-scale farm equipment, including planters, sprayers, combines, tillage, fertilizer equipment, equipment float (includes loading and securing equipment for transport), threshing and seed-cleaning equipment
• Experience with various scientific instruments used in crop ecophysiology studies (leaf gas exchange, whole plant respirometer, reflectance spectrometer, crop canopy analyser, etc.)
• Well-developed computer software skills (word processing, spreadsheets, statistics)
• Awareness of University of Guelph laboratory and field safety procedures
• Ability to work both independently and in a team environment and to plan and organize independently

The position involves regular exposure to dusty and noisy conditions (planting, harvesting and seed cleaning); outdoor work under hot or cold conditions; high temperatures and humidity in the greenhouse. Some exposure to unpleasant odours, handling oily equipment and corrosive substances, application of herbicides, insecticides and fungicides may be required.

Position Number         128-067
Classification               USW, Local 4120 Salary Band 7*
Salary Range $29.20 Minimum (Level 1)
$32.59 Normal Hiring Limit (Level 3)
$39.46 Job Rate (Level 7)

*Tentative evaluation; subject to committee review.

At the University of Guelph, fostering a culture of inclusion [2] is an institutional imperative. The University invites and encourages applications from all qualified individuals, including from groups that are traditionally underrepresented in employment, who may contribute to further diversification of our Institution.

Posting Date: 2019 07 24
Closing Date: 2019 07 31

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Links
[1] https://www.uoguelph.ca/hr/careers-guelph/how-apply