

Two MSc positions to study native grass endophytes – University of Guelph

We have two MSc positions available to continue a project funded by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs in which we are studying endophytes of the native grass big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*). We have already isolated and cultured fungal and bacterial endophytes from seeds of the grass. The next steps are to identify and characterize the endophyte isolates biochemically and test their effects on plant growth in a controlled setting. One student will focus on fungi while the other student will focus on bacteria. The students will work in the lab of Dr. Jonathan Newman (Integrative Biology) and will be directly supervised by Dr. Heather Hager (Wilfrid Laurier University), Dr. Pedro Antunes (Algonia University), and a faculty member from Molecular and Cellular Biology (University of Guelph).

We are seeking independent and self-motivated candidates with previous laboratory experience in working with fungal or bacterial microbes. Molecular biology experience (DNA extraction, PCR) and research experience (e.g., volunteer, work-study, undergraduate research project) are assets. Excellent record-keeping skills and attention to detail are a must. The position is open to Canadian citizens and permanent residents.

Each MSc position in the College of Biological Science is allocated six semesters of financial support from a combination of research funds and teaching assistantships (see Student stipend information: <https://www.uoguelph.ca/cbs/student-stipend-information>). Interested candidates should email a short (one page) cover letter detailing their relevant experience, plus CV, unofficial transcript, and the names of two references to Dr. Heather Hager (hhager@uoguelph.ca). Applications will be considered for an August/September 2019 start.