Graduate Research Assistantship or Postdoc at the University of New Hampshire: Social Dimensions of Agroforestry Systems

Graduate Research Assistantship or Postdoc in Food Systems at the University of New Hampshire

Seeking a highly motivated, advanced graduate student or postdoc to join the food systems lab at UNH for a fully funded graduate training opportunity or two-year postdoc. The position will play an important role in a new initiative to support regionally adapted agroforestry systems (Project “ADAPT”). The project integrates research, education, and extension to develop and research agroforestry systems (including silvopasture, polycultures, forest farming), promote agroforestry training and outreach programs and build knowledge and skills around agroforestry as a climate smart solution for expanding food production through diverse educational opportunities. The candidate will assist with a social science research study to understand the barriers and opportunities for wider adoption of agroforestry practices in the region, and the potential for agroforestry systems to support sustainable livelihood strategies for New England farmers. The candidate will also co-lead a community-based participatory engagement process to guide the development of model agroforestry systems and training programs. The ideal candidate will thrive in a collaborative team setting that brings together researchers and students from diverse fields and institutions, extension educators, farmers, landowners and community organizations and partners.

Funding: The desired start date is the summer of 2024. Supported by a three-year Graduate Research Assistantship or two-year postdoc funded by the USDA NIFA (GRA includes a stipend, summer salary, a full waiver of tuition expenses, and a package of benefits, including health insurance). Students pursuing a Ph.D. will be eligible for additional funding to complete their degree (either a TA or GRA), contingent on satisfactory performance.

Degree programs: Prospective students have the option of pursuing one of two graduate degrees at UNH: Agriculture science Ph.D. with a concentration in food systems through the Department of Agriculture, Nutrition, and Food Systems: https://colsa.unh.edu/agriculture-nutrition-food-systems/academics/graduate-programs, or an interdisciplinary, University-wide Natural Resources and Environmental studies Ph.D. program: https://gradschool.unh.edu/natural-resources-earth-systems-science-phd/program/phd/natural-resources-environmental-studies

Required Qualifications: M.A./M.S. or Ph.D. in sociology, geography, or other social sciences, environmental or natural resource management sciences, or related fields. Demonstrated excellence in written and oral communication skills. Valid driver’s license, clean driving record and ability to pass required University driving test.

Preferred Qualifications: Candidates with social science research experience with human subjects (interviews, focus groups, etc.) and/or experience with participatory engagement research approaches.

To apply: Interested applicants should contact Dr. Analena Bruce (Analena.bruce@unh.edu) for more information and to discuss their interests in advance of applying for the position. Please include the following information in your message: 1) your interest in the position and why you think this opportunity might be a good fit for your professional goals and research interests, 2) relevant experience and skills that qualify you for the position, and 3) your CV or resume.
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