



Graduate Research Assistantship Plant Genetic Resources

The genetic diversity available in genebanks through the USDA-ARS National Plant Germplasm System and similar organizations is essential for crop improvement and global food security. However, there is a lack of high-quality training materials on management and use of Plant Genetic Resources (PGR). A graduate research assistantship is available beginning in Spring of 2021 for study leading to a M.S. degree in Plant Breeding and Genetics, with an emphasis on developing educational materials on PGR. The student will be part of a team of scientists at Colorado State University, Iowa State University and the USDA-ARS National Laboratory for Genetic Resource Preservation whose mission is to expand the agricultural workforce that is well trained in topics relevant to acquisition, preservation, distribution, evaluation, and utilization of PGR. The student will research existing educational materials on PGR, identify gaps in those offerings, develop content for the learning materials, assist with development and teaching of the online courses, and help supervise undergraduate students. In addition, the M.S. student will have the opportunity to conduct research on a topic related to plant genetic diversity that aligns with their interests.



<https://www.ars.usda.gov/>

Students in the program receive an interdisciplinary education relevant to the major challenges facing global food systems including a growing world population, land degradation and climate change.

The assistantship is funded by a USDA-NIFA Higher Education Challenge grant and provides \$2,283/month base salary plus tuition. Because of funding constraints, the assistantship is limited to citizens or nationals of the United States. **To apply**, please send a CV, Cover Letter and Personal Statement addressing your past experience and interest in this research area to Dr. María Muñoz-Amatriaín (maria.munoz_amatriain@colostate.edu). Applications will be accepted until November 15, 2020.

For more information, please contact Dr. María Muñoz-Amatriaín, Department of Soil & Crop Sciences, Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, CO 80523-1170. Phone: 970-491-3691. Email: maria.munoz_amatriain@colostate.edu. Information on the Soil and Crop Sciences' graduate program is available at <https://soilcrop.agsci.colostate.edu/graduate-programs/>.