

Ph.D Graduate Assistantship In Plant Breeding

A Ph.D graduate assistantship in plant breeding is immediately available in the Department of Environmental Horticulture, University of Florida. The Ph.D candidate will be sponsored by a UF-plant breeding program with a tuition-waiver and a stipend of \$25,000/year. Most experiments will be conducted at Mid-Florida Research and Education center, which is about 15 miles from downtown of Orlando city, Florida.

Project Description:

This project will focus on the development of ornamental plants with enhanced abiotic stress tolerance and disease resistance. The mapping population for this project is currently under development, and the Ph.D candidate will maintain this mapping population and perform phenotypic evaluation for genetic analysis. The Ph.D candidate will also prepare DNA library for illumina sequencing and analyze sequencing data for genetic mapping. Additionally, he or she will receive training in plant biotechnology to develop gene-edited ornamental and vegetable mutants using CRISPR/Cas9 and CRISPR/Cpf1. This multidisciplinary program combines genetics, molecular biology, genomics, tissue culture, plant physiology and plant pathology. The Ph.D candidate is expected to acquire knowledge in how to use advanced breeding tools for crop breeding. Through working with our industrial and academic partners, the Ph.D candidate will establish credentials for employment in the sectors of academia and agricultural industry.

Qualifications:

- Applicants with high motivation and passion in plant science
- Be able to think critically and work independently
- Bachelor degree in plant biology, plant science, agronomy, horticulture and/or related fields
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English
- Experience in genomics and using “R” program for statistical analysis and graphical applications, would be highly beneficial to the application
- Applicants with a Master degree will be highly preferred for this position.
- GRE test score is required for all applicants, and TOEFL test score is required for applicants from non-English speaking countries.

University of Florida is a world-leading research institution in plant breeding program with state-of-art facilities and 29 breeders from all over the world. The Ph.D candidate will have opportunities to present his/her research findings every year to our breeding group, and will gain visions in progress and perspective of plant breeding in northern America. We welcome excellent applicants from all the world to join us. Please send your CV with contact information for 2-3 references to Dr. Huo at hhuo@ufl.edu.