

MS Positions Available to Study Carbon Dynamics and Fire Behavior in Hurricane-Damaged, Fire-Managed Southeastern U.S. Forests

Two M.S. research assistantships are available at Auburn University to study above- and belowground carbon dynamics and fire behavior in hurricane-damaged, fire-managed forests of the southeastern U.S.. One position is with Dr. Heather Alexander (Forest and Fire Ecology Lab, College of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences) and will focus on carbon resilience in above- and belowground carbon pools across gradients of hurricane damage at different time intervals following prescribed fire. The other position is with Dr. Yaniv Olshansky (Soil Chemistry Lab, Department of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences) and will focus on soil carbon transformations and distribution in the same forests. The successful applicants will conduct extensive field research across the southeastern U.S. and perform laboratory work relevant to each position. The student will be appointed as a Graduate Research Assistant (GRA). The student working in the Forest and Fire Ecology Lab will assist with teaching undergraduate courses in Forest Fire Management and Forest Ecology (Spring 2023).

Applicants must have a Bachelor's degree in ecology, environmental science, soil science, forestry, or a related field. Applicants **must**: 1) be in excellent physical condition and capable of working long hours outdoors exposed to harsh weather, biting insects, and thorny vegetation, and 2) have a strong desire to pursue non-field related activities including data analysis and scientific writing. Previous experience with research, data analysis, and data management skills are preferred. Students applying to work in Dr. Olshansky's lab with prior knowledge and experience in molecular spectroscopy and analytical chemistry will be given preference. Must also possess a current and valid driver's license and be able to drive a state vehicle. If interested, please email to Dr. Heather Alexander (heather.alexander@auburn.edu) and Dr. Yaniv Olshansky (vyzo0015@auburn.edu) (1) a cover letter discussing interest in the research, qualifications, and applicable background experience; (2) a resume/CV; (3) unofficial transcripts, (4) GRE scores (Dr. Olshansky's lab only), and (5) contact information for three professional references. Details on the full application process to the Auburn Graduate School can be found at <http://graduate.auburn.edu/prospective-students/application-instructions/>. Financial support is available for two years, starting in fall 2022, and includes a stipend (\$18,000/year) and tuition waiver. Review of applications will begin immediately.

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