The University of the District of Columbia (UDC) is the land-grant university of the
Nation’s Capital. The College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental
Sciences (CAUSES) embodies the land-grant tradition of UDC and offers academic programs in
urban agriculture, urban sustainability, water resources management, nutrition and dietetics,
urban architecture and community planning.

CAUSES seeks a Graduate Assistant to join its Professional Science Master’s Program in
Urban Sustainability (https://www.udc.edu/causes/professional-science-masters-program/).
The Graduate Assistant will work with a group of researchers to assess the current condition and
survival of oak trees in the District of Columbia. Work will include evaluation of the presence of
pests and pathogens, and measurement of abiotic factors that may negatively impact urban
trees. Oak trees experiencing decline will be identified, mapped and sampled for pathogens and
insect pests. Field work will be coordinated with public, private, institutional, and federal
property owners across the District. The Graduate Assistant will collaborate with federal and
District government agencies on the analysis, summary, and interpretation of data for
publication in peer-reviewed journals, and for the general public in the form of blog posts and
other publicly-available formats. The Graduate Assistant will partner with other universities,
government agencies, and NGOs, and will contribute to community outreach associated with
the project. The incumbent will be expected to conduct research 20 hours per week during the
fall and spring semesters and 30-40 hours per week over the summer. Research conducted
during the summer will focus on field work in urban and semi-natural settings across DC. The
Graduate Assistantship position carries a stipend of $22,500 for 12 months. Upon successful
completion of the first year, a second year of funding will be available (i.e. $45,000 over 24
months total). Non-DC area residents will also be eligible for in-District graduate tuition rates for
the master’s program (currently $4,100 per semester).

Primary qualifications
- Undergraduate degree related to urban ecology, sustainability, and/or land
  management, e.g. with a major in forestry, environmental studies, horticulture, entomology,
  plant pathology, botany, biological sciences, ecology, or a closely-related field.
- Strong organizational skills, ability to exhibit an attention to detail, and a self-driven
  curiosity for the research topic.
- Proven ability to conduct independent research and applied problem solving.
- Excellent communication skills, both written and oral, and the ability to convene and
  organize research groups, work as an active member of a diverse scientific team, and relay
  research goals and findings to a variety of audiences.
- Strong quantitative skills and a basic understanding of biostatistics are preferred.
- Physical ability to work outdoors in a range of conditions and settings.
- A valid U.S. driver’s license is required.

Applicants should first apply for the Graduate Assistantship through the email address listed
below. The successful applicant will then need to apply for the PSM in Urban Sustainability
Program through UDC Admissions. Applicants should email:
1) a letter of interest detailing their qualifications for the position (two-page maximum);
2) a curriculum vitae;
3) unofficial undergraduate transcripts; and
4) contact information for three professional references (institution, email address, and phone
number).
Application deadline: Open until filled. Priority deadline is May 1, 2021.
Starting date: Preferably July 2021. An August start date may be negotiable.
Duration: One year, renewable for a second year with successful completion of expectations.
Contact: To apply for the Graduate Assistantship or for questions, please contact urbansustainability@udc.edu.