The Porter Lab at Washington State University, Vancouver is accepting applications from prospective PhD students. We study how mutualisms—cooperative interactions between species—impact evolutionary processes and ecological dynamics. We work with plants and their beneficial microbial associates to test fundamental theory about cooperative interactions. Our research projects range from the field, to the lab to the greenhouse and integrate a variety of approaches from ecological genetics, quantitative genetics, and genomics. The student would have the opportunity to join current projects in the lab investigating how the domestication of legume crops like soybean, pea, and chickpea has altered symbiosis with nitrogen-fixing rhizobium bacteria:

https://labs.wsu.edu/stephanie-porter/

Applicants should have a bachelor's degree in a field relevant to lab research. We look for strong communication skills, research experience, and/or quantitative skills or an interest in learning them. Students will receive a stipend, tuition, and travel and research support via a mix of research assistantships, teaching assistantships, departmental funding, and university fellowships. Students will also be supported to as they seek external fellowships through the NSF, USDA, and other sources. Students in the lab have access to equipment and supplies for research in lab, the WSUV greenhouse, and/or WSU's Central Ferry Research Farm. WSU has a large and dynamic community of scientists working on cutting-edge questions about plants and microbes in natural and agricultural ecosystems. Students in the Porter lab apply to the WSUV Biology or Plant Biology Graduate Programs:

https://cas.vancouver.wsu.edu/science-graduate-programs/biology-and-plant-biology-ms-and-phd

WSU Vancouver is an inclusive, innovative, non-residential research university dedicated to offering premier undergraduate and graduate educational and research experiences. Situated on 351 scenic acres, WSU Vancouver is in the homeland of the Chinookan and Taidnapam peoples and the Cowlitz Indian Tribe. WSU Vancouver is located in Vancouver, Washington in the southwest region of Washington state. A part of the Portland, Oregon metro area, Vancouver offers a wealth of social justice, cultural and recreational interests including identity-specific community events, visual and performing arts, professional sports teams, farmers markets and nature trails. In addition to its celebrated quality of life, the Pacific Northwest boasts a fruitful climate for scientific collaboration, with opportunities at numerous institutions throughout the region.

Interested prospective students should explore the lab website and email stephanie.porter@wsu.edu with:

1) "Prospective student" in email subject line
2) Brief cover letter describing accomplishments, research interests, and career goals
3) CV
4) Unofficial transcripts
5) Sample of your scientific writing (eg. a manuscript or a class paper you've written)
Applicants who email by November 20th will be given preference. This will allow time for me to schedule virtual meetings with top candidates to discuss potential projects before they apply to the graduate program (application deadline January 10th).