

# **Job Opening:**

## **Student Laboratory Research Assistant (Hourly)**

***Description:***

We seek a laboratory assistant to perform a variety of molecular biology tasks in support of ongoing projects at the National Soybean Research Center, on campus. This is an excellent opportunity to gain practical laboratory experience, acquire new skills, solidify your resume, and make valuable contributions to applied research projects that directly benefit Midwestern agriculture.

Duties will include: growth of bacterial and fungal cultures; inoculation of greenhouse, growth chamber, and/or field plants and subsequent sampling; purification of DNA from plant, fungal, and bacterial sources; analysis of DNA by real-time PCR and electrophoresis; preparation of routine growth media, buffers and biochemical solutions; use of pipettors, pH meters, and other common laboratory equipment; accurate and timely recording of research results.

Additional duties may include: microscopic examination of specimens, performance of ELISA and other immunological assays; biochemical extraction of fungal and plant tissues; cleaning of laboratory glassware. Overnight travel will not be required, but day travel to research plots and sampling locations within Illinois may occasionally be requested. Ability to communicate research results by oral and written presentations is desirable.

Required availability is 10–20 hr/wk during spring and fall semesters, and 30–40 hr/wk during summer. We offer a flexible daytime work schedule to coordinate your daily coursework and vacations with the needs of our research.

***Requirements:***

Active undergraduate status; completed coursework in chemistry, life science, and biochemistry, with lab coursework in chemistry and biology. Those having advanced coursework or lab experience in biochemistry, crop science, plant pathology, microbiology, molecular biology and/or other experience in the skills fundamental to the position are encouraged to apply. You must be willing and able to learn & master precision laboratory techniques, paying careful attention to detail. You will work closely with and alongside others in the laboratory, and must be cooperative and flexible in the team environment. Adherence to all University workplace and laboratory safety standards will be required.

***To apply:***

We will begin screening applications on January 30, 2009. Submit **(1) a cover letter** along with **(2) your resume**, which should include the following:

- Your name and contact information;
- Your major, current academic progress, and a list of completed courses relevant to the position;
- Your expected date of graduation;
- Any work experience;
- Other pertinent information.

Please email your application or questions to: James Haudenshield, [jsh1@illinois.edu](mailto:jsh1@illinois.edu), Department of Crop Sciences, 1101 W. Peabody Avenue, Urbana, IL 61801.