

PhD opportunity in the Department of Geosciences

Dr. Abinash Bhattachan (email: abibhatt at ttu dot edu) at Texas Tech University's Department of Geosciences is seeking to fill a PhD position (research assistant) for Fall 2025. The student will work on project studying the connection between climate and infectious disease transmission in Texas. The graduate student will be a part of a recently funded NSF project which investigates soil, environmental, climatic conditions that determine the distribution of *Coccidioides* in West Texas soils. These environmental data will be combined with data on current and recent Valley fever incidence in the general population through a serosurvey which will allow us to predict where affliction, incidence and transmission rates in humans could be high.

Our lab is committed on maintaining an inclusive, diverse and productive environment and preference will be given to those who have a) a MS degree in earth and environmental sciences, or soil science, or microbial ecology, or environmental health sciences, b) prior field and laboratory work experience. The position will be fully funded for 4 years by a research assistantship. The student will be advised by Dr. Bhattachan with ample opportunities to collaborate closely with Dr. Sandip Pal at TTU, Dr. Jennifer Head at University of Michigan and Dr. Scott Van Pelt at USDA-ARS. Interested candidates are encouraged to contact Dr. Bhattachan with a current CV and a cover letter with a brief summary of background, prior research experience/interests (max 2-pages). Texas Tech's deadline for fall 2025 admission is January 15, 2025.