

Research Assistant I/II/III (Insect Pollinator Technician)

Position Details

Requisition Number S447P

Home Org Name Entomology and Plant Pathology

Division Name College of Agriculture

Position Title Research Assistant I/II/III (Insect Pollinator Technician)

Job Class Code HA01A/B/C

Appointment Status Full-time

Part-time FTE

Limited Term Yes

Limited Term Length 1 year

Job Summary The Auburn University Bee Lab is seeking a highly motivated individual to provide professional research and extension assistance on activities related to insect pollinators. Our primary focus is on native bees. **This is a multi-year project; however, the contract is for one year with the possibility of annual extensions depending on performance of the successful candidate and availability of funding.**

Questions concerning the position should be directed to Dr. Geoff Williams (williams@auburn.edu); please include 'Insect Pollinator Technician' in the subject header. Classified as a Carnegie R1 university, Auburn University is a public flagship land-grant institution with a student enrollment of more than 30,000. The University provides instruction in approximately 70 academic departments and performs graduate research and public service across a variety of program areas. The University is located in the city of Auburn in east-central Alabama, within 2 hours of the metropolitan areas of Birmingham, AL, and Atlanta, GA, as well as within 4 hours of scenic escapes like the southern Appalachians and the Gulf of Mexico. Auburn has been frequently included in U.S. News' Best Places to Live in America, and it is Alabama's fastest growing metropolitan area.

The Department: The Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology is administered by the University's historic College of Agriculture. It houses over 20 faculty, 5 support staff, and more than 50 graduate students, all of whom work towards executing the University's research, instruction, and extension missions. Additional information can be found at <http://enpp.auburn.edu>.

The Laboratory: The University's Bee Lab, known as AU-BEES, currently consists of five graduate students supported by one faculty member, one laboratory manager, one technician (focused on honey bees), and multiple undergraduate students and local stakeholders. Alongside our collaborators from across the globe, the AU-BEES team works toward promoting the health of bees and other pollinating insects through various research, instruction, and extension activities. Additional information can be found at <http://aub.ie/bees>.

Essential Functions Responsibilities include, but are not limited to the following:
*Managing projects for research and extension purposes.
*Organizing materials, equipment, activities, and events independently and with other lab members.
*Conducting and assisting with field and laboratory experiments.
*Mentoring students.
*Knowledge and experience concerning insect pollinators and their habitat (e.g., insect and plant identification)
*Communicating to a diverse group of stakeholders, including students, scientists, landowners, and other agricultural producers (e.g., at workshops and field days).

Education Level Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution

Field of Study Entomology, Biology, or closely related natural or social sciences field.

Years of Experience No experience required for entry level I

Area of Experience**Requirements for Additional Job Levels**

Level II – Bachelor's degree in the areas listed above and 2 years of experience in research practices and protocols
Level III – Bachelor's degree in the areas listed above and 4 years of experience in research practices and protocols

Education Level**Field of Study****Years of Experience**

When a candidate has the required education, but lacks the required experience, they may normally apply additional appropriate education toward the experience requirement, at a rate of one (1) year relevant education per year of required experience.

Area of Experience**Requirements for Additional Job Levels****Minimum Skills and Abilities**

Possess excellent organizational and problem solving skills, be able to work independently and alongside teammates, and have the ability to effectively communicate to a diverse stakeholder group.

Minimum Technology Skills**Minimum License and Certifications**

A valid driver's license or the ability to obtain one prior to employment.

Desired Qualifications**Salary Grade**

30

Salary Range

\$28,000 - \$58,400

Job Category

Agricultural/Veterinary Medicine

Working Hours if Non-Traditional**List any hazardous conditions or physical demands required by this position**

The position requires frequent standing and walking, occasional lifting up to 50 pounds, the safe use and handling of chemicals, and frequent exposure to a stinging insects (honey bees, etc.).

Posting Date

10/01/2020

Closing Date**EEO Statement**

AUBURN UNIVERSITY IS AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER. It is our policy to provide equal employment opportunities for all individuals without regard to race, sex, religion, color, national origin, age, disability, protected veteran status, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other classification protected by applicable law.

Special Instructions to Applicants

Please utilize the attachment feature and attach a cover letter, resume, and copies of post-secondary transcripts or other relevant qualifications. Only complete application materials will be accepted for review.

Quick Link for Internal Postings

<http://www.auemployment.com/postings/19692>

Documents Needed to Apply

Required Documents

1. Resume
2. Cover Letter
3. Transcripts

Optional Documents

1. Other
2. Letter of Recommendation
3. Curriculum Vitae

Supplemental Questions

Required fields are indicated with an asterisk (*).

1. * How were you made aware of this opportunity?
 - AU Employment website
 - Employment websites (Indeed, HigherEd Jobs, etc.)
 - Veterans Assistance Services
 - Disability Assistance Services
 - Newspaper
 - Professional Journal
 - Listserv
 - HR email
 - Social Media
 - State Employment Service
 - Walk-in
 - Other
2. * Please select the answer that best describes your current employment relationship with Auburn University.
 - Not a current Auburn employee
 - Current Auburn employee in position less than one year
 - Current Auburn employee in position more than one year
3. * Do you have a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited institution in Entomology, Biology, or closely related natural or social sciences field?
 - Will obtain in the next six months
 - Yes
 - No
4. * Do you have a valid driver's license or the ability to obtain one prior to selection?
 - Yes
 - No

Julia Vieira

East Providence, RI | (407) 955 6338 | vieiraju@uri.edu

Dr. Geoff Williams
Auburn University Bee Lab
952 Bee Lab Road
Auburn, Alabama 36849

Dear Dr. Williams,

I am writing to express my interest in the insect pollinator technician position advertised on the Texas A&M job board. I will be receiving my B.S. in Environmental Science and Management in May 2021, and I am eager to take part in an opportunity that will allow me to indulge further in my love for native bees. My fellowship experience with pollinators, as well as my strong public speaking, organizational, and collaboration skills, make me an ideal candidate for this position.

This summer I worked with Dr. Steven Alm through the Coastal and Environmental Fellowship, a very selective undergraduate research program, at the University of Rhode Island where we conducted field surveys across the state to identify the floral preferences of Rhode Island *Bombus* species. This research provided me with experience in conducting and assisting in field and laboratory experiments, as well as insect and plant identification. I am also currently enrolled in a course on bee biology and pollination ecology that will further my knowledge of insect pollinators. In December, I will be presenting my fellowship research at a scientific poster symposium to a variety of stakeholders including fellow students, faculty, scientists, and members of the general public. Throughout my field of study, I have designed and conducted experiments, written research papers, and given presentations both individually and collaboratively with group members. This has provided me with advanced public speaking, organizational, and collaboration skills that I can apply to this position.

I hope you'll agree that my academic training as well as my fellowship experience has provided me with excellent preparation for the demands of a research assistant position in the Bee Lab. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to meeting with you to discuss this opportunity in greater detail.

Sincerely,

Julia Vieira

Julia Vieira

(407) 955-6338 | vieiraju@uri.edu

EDUCATION

B.S. in Environmental Science and Management
University of Rhode Island
GPA: 3.81/4.00

graduating May 2021

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

Bee Biology and Pollination Ecology

- Learned to identify five families of bees through morphological, biological, and behavioral characteristics
- Learned the basic biology, behavior, and pollination services of native and managed bees

Endangered Species Conservation

- Learned global approaches to conservation of biodiversity in human-dominated landscapes
- Co-wrote and presented a review on human-conflict mitigation strategies of Himalayan snow leopards and provided recommendations for improvement

EXPERIENCE

Coastal and Environmental Fellow, Undergraduate Researcher

University of Rhode Island

May 2020 - Present

Mentor: Dr. Steven Alm

- Conducted field surveys of Rhode Island bumble bee species and their floral preferences
- Gained experience in insect and plant identification
- Designed and presented a scientific poster for bumble bee floral preferences to an audience of stakeholders
- Conducted experiments using novel sugar treatments for varroa mite control in honeybee hives and analyzed varroa mite infestation data

Sales Associate

Bob's Stores

November 2018 - February 2020

Supervisor: Kerri Clauson

- Communicated effectively with the general public
- Worked effectively in a team environment
- Enhanced problem solving skills in a fast paced environment

SKILLS

- Insect and plant identification
- ArcGIS (10.6), ArcGIS Online, ArcGIS StoryMaps
- Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint
- Google Docs, Sheets, and Slides
- Analytical skills

References on request.