

Ph.D. Graduate Student Position in Earth Sciences and Soil Chemistry-Start Fall 2024

Position Title: PhD Student

Primary Location: University of Texas at San Antonio

Subject Area: Soil physics, Soil Chemistry, Water-Rock Interaction, Nutrients and Contaminants mobility in Soils and Interaction

Application Deadline: April 30, 2024

Possible Position Start Date: MAY 2022 OR AUGUST 2024

The Chemical Hydrology and Mass Spectrometry Lab in The Department fo Earth and Planetary Sciences at the University of Texas at San Antonio is accepting applications for a PhD graduate student [research assistant] to join our group. The position start date is Fall 2024, but can be filled as soon as May/June, 2024.

The applicant will be working primarily with Dr. Saugata Datta, Dr. Allison Veach, and other collaborators through the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) in San Antonio, Texas USA with field sites spanning urban - rangeland - grasslands in central Texas. Project goals are to use novel, field-based methods to identify soil chemical properties including solid state speciation of elements, geochemistry of trace elements and nutrients in soils and retention of such and interactions of such with soil moisture. Additionally, land-use impacts on dynamic soil properties, including soil microbiomes, will be evaluated and will be coordinated between one other PhD student and PIs in soil ecology. The applicant will lead field soil sampling campaigns, collaborate on outreach with community participants, and oversee undergraduate interns on related work. Both significant field and laboratory work will be required.

This graduate research position is fully funded (\$24,000 annual salary) and will also include full tuition and health insurance coverage. Additional university scholarships may be available to supplement salary for the summer. UTSA is a public research university and a Hispanic-Serving Institution located in northwest San Antonio. The main campus, where this position will be housed, enrolls ~35,000 students, has a diverse set of faculty and students in geosciences, , planetary sciences, environmental science, chemistry and ecology.

Qualifications: Master's degree in Earth Sciences, Environmental Science, Soil Science, or related discipline with a minimum GPA of 3.5 is preferred. However, a Bachelors degree is also acceptable depending on applicant experience and interests. Interest in soil science, soil chemical properties, soil physics and willingness to engage in community science activities. Strong written and verbal communication and an ability to work independently is required.

Application Process: Please email a compiled PDF that includes (1) a cover letter highlighting applicants interest and experiences and publications, (2) complete CV with all experiences of courses taken (3) One page as to why the applicant finds this position interested and (3) four names of professional references to Dr. Saugata Datta at saugata.datta@utsa.edu. Review of applications will begin in January and remain open until the position is filled. Please contact Dr.Datta with any questions pertaining to this position.