

Position type (as displayed on the careers site): * Postdoctoral Researcher

FTE:* 1.0

Job Title: Fellow (Post Doc)

Pay Grade:* 001

Salary Range:* \$47,476 - \$60,000 annual salary

Anticipated Hiring Range:* \$50,000 – 55,000

About this role

This postdoctoral research associate will lead independent and coordinate collaborative research to advance understanding of large ungulate grazer influences on grassland soil fertility, through evaluation of the diversity, function, and heterogeneity of N-cycling microorganisms in tallgrass prairies from centimeter to regional scales. This 2-year position is part of a larger 5-year NSF-funded project, and the postdoctoral researcher will be responsible for synthesis of an existing time series of data, as well as independent field observational and experimental sample collection, data collection, analysis and dissemination. The project involves field work at bison-grazed, cattle-grazed, and ungrazed field sites across the Flint Hills, KS and OK, USA, laboratory work and data analysis on soil biogeochemical and microbiological measurements including microbial marker gene sequencing, and communication of results in the scientific literature and translation to broader audiences (e.g., public and private rangeland managers, high school students) in other venues.

The position is based in the Division of Biology at Kansas State University, and Kansas-based field and lab work is a required component of the position; however, remote work during parts of the year is negotiable. This is a full-time benefits-eligible position (<https://www.k-state.edu/hcs/benefits/index.html>). Kansas State University is located in the city of Manhattan (<http://www.ci.manhattan.ks.us>), a pleasant community of about 50,000 located in the scenic, native tallgrass prairie, Flint Hills region. Local recreational opportunities include a large lake/park system, road and trail biking, hiking trails, hunting and fishing, athletic events, and performing arts. Manhattan also serves as the regional center for education, health care, commerce, entertainment and communications, and is just 2 hours from the larger Kansas City metropolitan area.

% of time Duties / Responsibilities

15% Field work and overseeing field technicians

25% Lab work and overseeing lab technicians

50% Analysis and interpretation of biogeochemical and microbiome sequence data, writing of reports and manuscripts.

10% Career development beyond focal project

Is this a Supervisory position:* Yes

If a Lead Worker or Supervisor who do they supervise?: Undergraduate technicians

Direct Supervisor: Lydia Zeglin

Briefly state the purpose of the position: The postdoc will conduct research on grazing effects on soil microbial N cycling in grasslands: Specific duties include to synthesize existing data, collect new data, contribute to new experimental design, and analyze data and write manuscripts associated with the larger research project.

Does employee's primary duty consist of work requiring the exercise of independent discretion and judgment? If yes provide an example: Yes, the individual will have to use their independent judgement during research work, including but not limited to: safety in the field, decisions in the field regarding best actions to support research and outreach goals, respecting private landowners, and decisions on most appropriate data analyses, thoughtful interpretation, and clearest communication of results of the research to different audiences (academic, educational, land managers).

QUALIFICATIONS

Required Education & Experience (must match minimum requirements in the selected job description):*

- Completed a PhD degree in Microbial Ecology or a related field
- Strong organizational skills, including experience with collection, sample handling and processing, and analysis, of large multivariate datasets
- Strong oral communication skills, as demonstrated by maturity and emotional intelligence during interactions with individuals with diverse backgrounds and goals
- Strong written communication skills, including a record of completing manuscripts in a timely fashion
- Ability to conduct productive work both independently and as part of a collaborative team

Preferred Education & Qualifications (skills / knowledge / abilities):

- Experience with and understanding of grassland or rangeland ecology and management
- Well prepared to conduct full days of fieldwork under sometimes hot and humid conditions
- Ability to bring creativity and novel perspective to bear on the broad research topic

Special Instructions to Applicants

Anticipated start timing for this position is Summer 2023, but start date is negotiable. Funding is committed for two years, with contract renewal after the first year contingent on mutually satisfactory progress. The successful applicant will be encouraged to engage in collaborative proposal-writing to further support their own research goals.

Interested applicants should submit a cover letter that explicitly describes their professional qualifications for the position, and how this postdoctoral position complements their career goals. Applicants should also submit a full curriculum vitae, up to 3 relevant reprints, and contact information for three references. The application due date for priority consideration will be December 6, 2022.

Licenses / registrations / certifications and equipment used (May not include additional education and/or experience):

- Valid driver's license.