
Graduate Student Positions at Brigham Young University

Multiple graduate student positions (MS and PhD) in the evolution of plant genomes are available beginning Fall 2016 in the Department of Plant and Wildlife Science, Brigham Young University. Research focus of these assistantships center on the genome evolution of polyploid plants (*e.g.* cotton; see <http://udall-lab.byu.edu>). During their thesis work, students will employ molecular, structural, and genetic approaches to address basic questions in the evolution of plant domestication and genetic diversity of cotton. Specific technologies employed in the approaches include BioNano optical mapping, PacBio and Illumina DNA sequencing, and computational biology.

Successful applicants must be highly motivated, willing to work hard, and hopefully they are not too distracted by living in the most beautiful place in the world. Ideally, applicants should have a solid, but not necessarily deep, understanding of bioinformatics. Actual wet-lab experience with basic molecular biology techniques is a plus (PCR, cloning, sequence analysis, etc.).

Funding for this position is guaranteed through a combination of Teaching Assistantships from the Department of Plant and Wildlife Science, and Research Assistantships from the National Science Foundation and Cotton Incorporated. This means students will be paid a stipend (~\$5K-\$8K per semester, including summers) while they earn their graduate degree! In addition to the stipends, tuition and health insurance will also be provided. Students receiving bachelor degrees from universities other than BYU could receive up to \$30K per year through the HIDRA program or through the University Graduate Research Award (after first year of studies).

Interested applicants should send a CV, transcripts, GRE scores (if available) and a statement of research interests to Joshua Udall (jaudall@byu.edu). Applications will be screened starting Dec. 1 and continue until to February 1st, 2016. International students with strong credentials are welcome and encouraged to apply.

