

PhD Student Opportunity to Join Dr. Erika Hersch-Green's Research Group in Plant Evolutionary Ecology at Michigan Technological University

Our research group seeks to better understand the factors that influence how plants interact with their abiotic and biotic environments and the ecological and evolutionary responses of these interactions. **The specific project in which we are advertising for seeks to examine whether and how nutrient availabilities and/or disturbances affect plants differently based upon their genome sizes and whether plant genome size variation influences plant functional attributes, plant species interactions (with antagonists and mutualists) and the structuring of molecular (genomic and transcriptomic) and multispecies biodiversity patterns.**

Position Details:

- Within this general framework, it is expected that the student will lead the development of their specific research questions and projects in alignment with their interests and with guidance from Dr. Hersch-Green.
- Student will have opportunities to conduct experiments in lab, greenhouse, and field settings (<https://youtu.be/H6MtEnAlyi0>), work with a fun, supportive lab group who has ongoing collaborations with national and international scientists (see: <https://nutnet.org/home> OR <https://dragnetglobal.weebly.com/>), and participate in outreach and scientific communication activities.
- The anticipated **start date is Spring/Fall 2024**.
- **Funding (including tuition)** is available from an NSF-funded project ([link to full abstract](#)).

Qualifications:

- **Required:** (1) A MS in the fields of ecology or evolutionary biology or a closely related discipline. (2) Prior work experience in a field setting or with molecular/transcriptome work. (3) Good (demonstratable) English scientific writing skills. (4) Ability to work well independently and as part of a team.
- **Desired:** (1) good quantitative/statistics background. (2) Interest in community outreach as student will be trained in scientific teaching and communication skills and will have the opportunity to work with G6-12 and undergraduate students. (3) Commitment to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion. (4) A US driver's license upon starting.

Qualified and interested candidates should email Dr. Erika Hersch-Green (eherschg@mtu.edu) to express interest. In this email: include an updated CV and a statement of interest describing what area(s) of research you are most interested in exploring and any previous experience and/or skills related to these interests and the required and desired qualifications. I will then contact candidates for further discussion - at which time a formal application process will be discussed. **Review of applications will begin January 31, 2024**, and the position will remain open until filled. **Individuals from traditionally excluded groups in science and higher education are encouraged to apply.**