

Three (3) Graduate Research Assistantships in Quantitative Forest Ecology

Forest Advanced Computing & Artificial Intelligence (FACAI) Lab – ECO focus
GFBI-Hub-Purdue
Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, Purdue University

Background: The Global Forest Biodiversity Initiative (**GFBI**) Hub in the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources at Purdue University (**GFBI-Hub-Purdue**) is a GFBI continental center of research, education, and public outreach. As the core of GFBI-Hub-Purdue, our Lab of Forest Advanced Computing & Artificial Intelligence (FACAI) employs the paradigm of Artificial Intelligence (AI) encompassing different state-of-the-art machine learning and statistical methods to study global, regional, and local forest resource management and biodiversity conservation. FACAI has two parallel focuses. The economic focus (FACAI-ECON) is supervised by Dr. Mo Zhou, and the ecological focus (FACAI-ECO) is supervised by Dr. Jingjing Liang. All the graduate students and post-doctoral fellows are affiliated with either FACAI-ECON, or FACAI-ECO, or both.

Position description: One (1) research assistantship at Ph.D. level and two (2) research assistantships at Master level are available in the area of quantitative forest ecology and global forest ecology. All the positions will be hosted by the Global Forest Biodiversity Initiative (**GFBI**) Hub in the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources at Purdue University, in West Lafayette, Indiana, USA.

The successful candidates will be conducting research on forest ecology and management, with a focus on biodiversity and forest ecosystem functioning. Under the supervision of Dr. Jingjing Liang and his close GFBI collaborators, each incumbent will select a topic that fits his/her expertise and interest, at various geographic scales, from community, regional, national, to global. All incumbents are expected to actively engage in all GFBI-related research, education, and outreach projects.

The incumbents are expected to start in August 2018, or January 2019. Ph.D. assistantships with tuition waiver are funded up to three years, contingent upon satisfactory annual performance. A fourth year of support also may be possible. M.S. assistantships with tuition waiver are funded up to two years, contingent upon satisfactory annual performance.

The successful candidates may have opportunities to participate in research at other affiliated GFBI institutes around the world, including three other GFBI Hubs in China, Spain, and Switzerland.

Qualifications: A B.S. is required and a M.S. in forestry, economics, Statistics, or computer science is preferred. Passion for path-making research is a must. Strong quantitative skills and oral and writing proficiency are highly desired. Requirements for admission to the Graduate Program of the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources can be found at the following link: <https://www.purdue.edu/gradschool/prospective/gradrequirements/westlafayette/fnr.html>. Application deadline is September 15, 2018.

Application: A pdf file containing the applicant's CV, transcripts, GRE score, contact information of two references, and personal statement should be sent to the email address listed below. A formal application for admission to the Graduate Program of the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources should be submitted, according to university policy. For deadline and more information, visit: <https://ag.purdue.edu/fnr/Pages/GraduateStudiesFNR.aspx>

Purdue University is an EEO/AA employer. All individuals, including minorities, women, individuals with disabilities, and veterans are encouraged to apply.

Contact information:

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<http://www.gfbinitiative.org/liang>

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