

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture

Position: Lab Research Technician Assistant

Supervisor: Dr. Macarena Farcuh

Position Summary/Purpose of the Position: A Lab Research Technician Assistant in a newly opened Fruit Molecular/Biochemical lab focused on fresh fruit quality improvement, housed within the Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Duties and Responsibilities: The research will focus on using multidisciplinary approaches, with emphasis on molecular biology and biochemistry, to improve fresh fruit quality. This is primarily a laboratory-based position with some field work. The applicant will be expected to:

- Conduct molecular biology work (fruit/leaf DNA/RNA isolation and quantification, cDNA library construction, PCR and real time quantitative RT-PCR, gel electrophoresis) for ongoing projects
- Perform biochemical analyses of fruit/leaf samples for ongoing projects
- Assist with lab organization and safety, equipment maintenance and operation
- Work in a team to assist in designing experiments addressing ongoing project objectives
- Assist in supervision of hourly employees, undergraduate or high school students
- Collect and manage research data, statistical analysis and data graphical representation.
- Assist in manuscript preparation for peer-reviewed scientific journals
- Be willing to travel in- or out of state for sample collection
- Present research findings at local, regional or national meetings, if needed
- Aid with fruit quality physiological and physicochemical analyses

Minimum Qualifications

- B.S. in Plant Science, Plant Molecular Biology/Physiology, Plant Biochemistry or related field
- Valid Maryland Noncommercial Class C or equivalent driver's license

Specific Abilities/Experience required:

- At least 1-year experience working in a plant/fruit molecular biology and biochemical laboratory.
- Molecular biology skills (fruit/leaf DNA/RNA isolation and quantification, cDNA library construction, PCR and real time quantitative RT-PCR, gel electrophoresis)
- Experience with biochemistry techniques (enzymatic assays, protein extraction/quantification)
- Knowledge and skills working with Microsoft Office suite and basic knowledge of statistics.
- Show attention to detail, proactive, excellent communication skills
- Effective time management and organizational skills and willing to maintain a flexible schedule

Preferred Qualifications

- M.S. in in Plant Science, Plant Molecular Biology/Physiology, Plant Biochemistry or related field.
- Experience with HPLC and GC-MS

To apply: Provide CV, transcripts of all degrees earned and cover letter (max. 1 page) explaining your relevant education and experience making you a good fit for the position to mfarcuh@umd.edu.

The University of Maryland, College Park, actively subscribes to a policy of equal employment opportunity, and will not discriminate against any employee or applicant because of race, age, sex, color, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, ancestry or national origin, marital status, genetic information, or political affiliation. Minorities and women are encouraged to apply.