



Davis College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Consumer Sciences

Ph.D. or M.S. Assistantship in Soil Science

PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES AND POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

The Division of Plant & Soil Sciences at West Virginia University has an opening for an M.S. or a Ph.D. student starting in August 2009 or January 2010. The student will collaborate on efforts to develop digital soil property maps at regional and continental scales. Efforts will include regionalizing and disaggregating existing vector soil survey information, incorporating existing and new point data, and investigating the use of raster data sources to improve the spatial prediction of soil classes and soil properties. The specific project, funded by the US Forest Service, is to develop spatial prediction models of soil organic carbon across the Northeast and North Central United States based on detailed soil map information and soil point data. We seek an individual with an interest in studying soil variability and spatial modeling, as well as an understanding of geographic information science and statistical modeling techniques.

QUALIFICATIONS

M.S. or B.S. degree in Soil Science, Agronomy, Forestry, or closely related discipline. Demonstrated excellence in course work. Excellent written and oral communication skills. Ability to work independently and as a team member.

STIPEND AND FEES

Annual stipend is \$19,000 for a Ph.D., \$15,000 for a M.S. Tuition and health insurance are also covered.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Jim Thompson
Associate Professor of Pedology and Land Use
PO Box 6108
Morgantown, WV 26506-6108
Phone: 304-293-6023 x4348
Email: james.thompson@mail.wvu.edu

HOW TO APPLY

A complete application includes the graduate admissions application form (available online at <http://www.arc.wvu.edu/admissions/grad.html>), a 500-word statement of purpose, GRE scores, a copy of transcripts, and three letters of reference. International applicants must also include TOEFL scores. Application materials should be submitted directly to:

Office of Admissions and Records
West Virginia University
PO Box 6009
Morgantown, WV 26506-6009

MORGANTOWN AND WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

West Virginia University is a public, land-grant institution founded in 1867. Student enrollment is over 27,000, with approximately 6,500 graduate and professional students. The WVU campus is the home of the National Geospatial Development Center, a collaborative between the United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service and West Virginia University that supports the innovative development and use of geospatial information and geospatial technologies.

WVU is located in Morgantown, which was recently rated "No. 1 Small City in America" because of its exceptional quality of life. The Mountain State of West Virginia has over one million acres of public and private land devoted to outdoor recreation, including world-famous whitewater rivers, challenging mountain bike terrain, extensive trail system, great skiing, fantastic hunting and fishing, extensive state and national parklands and wilderness areas.

Division of Plant and Soil Sciences

Phone: 304-293-6023
FAX: 304-293-2960

PO Box 6108
Morgantown, WV 26506-6108

Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution