

Graduate Research Assistantships at Purdue University

Lei Zhang Lab

Department of Botany & Plant Pathology

The Lei Zhang lab at Purdue University

(<https://ag.purdue.edu/btny/Pages/Profile.aspx?strAlias=leizhang&intDirDeptID=10>) is seeking highly motivated applicants for graduate studies at PhD or MS levels for Fall of 2021. The research assistantships provide tuition waiver and stipend of \$24,520/year. Students with molecular biology background are encouraged to apply.

Plant-parasitic nematodes are microscopic soil-borne roundworms, they infect and damage plant roots causing annual crop losses valued at \$80-\$118 billion worldwide. The Zhang lab is aimed to enhance understanding of plant-nematode interactions and plant resistance to nematodes at molecular, organismal and population levels using a diverse array of approaches. Research results have been published on prestigious journals, including *Nature Plants*, *PLOS Pathogens*, *Molecular Plant Pathology*, *Plant Disease*.

Prior research experience in plant-parasitic nematodes is NOT required for application. The successful applicants will have opportunities to be trained and work on basic research to study functions of virulent effector proteins secreted by plant-parasitic nematodes using protein-protein interactions, next-generation sequencing (NGS) and gene editing techniques; or applied project to develop novel bio-control agents with different mode-of-actions against nematodes.

How to apply: Interested students are asked to e-mail directly to Dr. Lei Zhang (leizhang@purdue.edu) the following documents **no later than December 21, 2020**: digital copies of Resume, transcripts, statement of research interests. The subject of the email should be “**Research assistantship Fall 2021**”.

Successful candidates will be recommended for application to graduate program in the Department of Botany & Plant Pathology at Purdue University for admission and research assistantships.

The College of Agriculture at Purdue University is one of the world’s leading colleges of agricultural, food, life, and natural resource sciences and ranked sixth in the US in the 2019 QS World University Rankings.