Junior Specialist Position
Dr. Stacey Harmer lab, Department of Plant Biology, UC Davis

The Harmer laboratory wishes to employ a Junior Specialist at 100% time who will contribute to research on the molecular mechanisms underlying plant mating strategies and their modulation by environmental factors. The main focus is to better understand how sunflowers precisely time floral maturation to optimize interactions with pollinators and enhance their reproductive success.

a. Performance in Research (90%): This position requires creative contributions to an active research program investigating roles of the plant circadian clock and environmental cues on plant reproductive success. The candidate will help determine specific research goals for defined projects in regular consultation with the Principal Investigator. S/he will design and spearhead specific projects, including the selection and development of appropriate methods and techniques and will record, analyze, and organize the results in preparation of scientific publications, presentations, and/or grant proposals. Active participation in the writing and editing of scientific manuscripts is expected and will be a core training component. The candidate will work with undergraduate students and other lab personnel regarding the technical aspects of the research, including plant growth and maintenance, floral phenotyping, real-time quantitative reverse transcription PCR, development of new transformation techniques. Other integral activities will include trouble-shooting problems, interpreting results, and planning follow-up experiments. S/he will contribute to the upkeep of the lab, interacting with campus safety personnel to help maintain a safe working environment. Experience in molecular lab techniques such as DNA extraction, PCR, and gel electrophoresis as well as experience with plant propagation, software packages such as ImageJ/Fiji and a strong work ethic are expected.

Professional Competence and Activities (5%): The candidate will be expected to actively contribute to the weekly lab meeting and will present in that forum every 2 – 3 months. In addition, the candidate will participate in and at intervals lead journal club discussions, which requires the selection of an appropriate scientific publication and a discussion of its merit. The candidate will attend seminars and may present research results at departmental retreats and other scientific forums.

University and Public Service (5%): The candidate will act as a mentor for undergraduate researchers in the lab and will provide training in lab procedures. The candidate may also engage in public outreach activities that include presenting scientific research results to students and the general public.
**Basic qualifications:**

1. BS/BA in Biology or related field
2. Excellent communication skills and the ability to work both independently and as part of a team
3. Ability to keep a complete and detailed laboratory notebook of experimental procedures and data
3. At least six months (part-time) experience working in a laboratory, including carrying out basic molecular biology or plant biology tasks

**Preferred qualifications:**

1. Experience growing plants in controlled environments
2. Experience with ImageJ or similar image analysis programs
3. Experience with Excel and the software environment R

To apply: Qualified applicants should submit a cover letter, CV, optional contact information for 2 references and a Statement of Contributions to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, via this URL: https://recruit.ucdavis.edu/apply/JPF05883. The deadline for full consideration is August 29, 2023.

Questions: Please direct questions to Dr. Stacey Harmer.

- The University of California, Davis commits to inclusion excellence by advancing equity, diversity and inclusion in all that we do. We are an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer, and particularly encourage applications from members of historically underrepresented racial/ethnic groups, women, individuals with disabilities, veterans, LGBTQ community members, and others who demonstrate the ability to help us achieve our vision of a diverse and inclusive community.

- Under Federal law, the University of California may employ only individuals who are legally able to work in the United States as established by providing documents as specified in the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. Certain UC Davis positions funded by federal contracts or sub-contracts require the selected candidate to pass an E-Verify check. More information is available http://www.uscis.gov/e-verify.

- UC Davis is a smoke & tobacco-free campus (http://breathefree.ucdavis.edu/). If you need accommodation due to a disability, please contact the recruiting department.