

Junior Specialist Position

Dr. Xiaosa (Jack) Xu lab, Department of Plant Biology, UC Davis

The Xu laboratory wishes to employ a Junior Specialist at 100% time who will contribute to plant developmental biology and single-cell genomics research. The candidate will work closely with the PI and other lab members to design and implement a variety of cutting-edge projects focused on plant development and evolution, single-cell genomics, genome editing, and genetics. They will have the opportunity to be involved in: 1) propagating and caring for plants such as maize and arabidopsis; 2) extracting DNA and RNA from plant tissues and single cells, genotyping plant mutations, and preparing libraries for next-generation sequencing; 3) performing molecular, cell biology, and biochemistry experiments such as building CRISPR gene-editing constructs, imaging fluorescence plants, protein extraction from bacteria and plants, and conducting immunoprecipitation and western blot for the protein of interests; 4) assisting the cutting-edge single-cell genomics analysis using packages in Linux, R, or Python.

a. Research and lab maintenance (90%): The Junior Specialist will work closely with PI and lab members to plan and conduct experiments on plant development and evolution. The candidate will maintain large experiments in the field, growth chamber, and greenhouse contexts. The candidate will also oversee the seed storage unit and track the inventory. The candidate will discuss and interpret their research results with lab members and will co-author the resulting publications as appropriate. In addition, the Junior specialist will help keep the lab running smoothly by ordering reagents and equipment, managing inventory, maintaining specialized equipment such as freezers and microscopies, keeping benches and workspaces clean, preparing buffers, competent cells, media, and reagents for ongoing lab projects, and helping to create a culture of safety in the laboratory.

Professional Competence and Activities (5%): The candidate will attend seminars on topics related to fields of interest, participate and present in lab meetings and participate in scientific discussions with colleagues, and may engage in training programs to enhance knowledge and skills depending on the candidate's long-term goals.

University and Public Service (5%): The Junior Specialist will participate in public outreach activities and will help with the mentoring of undergraduate students or student interns.

Basic qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in Plant Sciences, Evolution, Molecular Biology, Cell Biology, Biochemistry, Genetics, or another related field. Applicants do not need to have their degree at the time of application but must have it before starting the position.
- Experience in molecular protocols, DNA or RNA focused
- Experience in plant research experiments and data collection
- Familiarity with standard software (Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint)

Preferred qualifications:

- Experience in designing, maintaining, and harvesting large-scale experiments in fields, greenhouses, and chambers.
- Experience in CRISPR gene-editing
- Experience in imaging with fluorescence and/or confocal microscopies.
- Experience in using bioinformatics tools, packages, and algorithms in Linux, R, python, etc.
- Highly motivated and organized, and able to communicate efficiently in writing and verbally.

To apply: Qualified applicants should submit a cover letter, CV, official transcript, 3 letters of reference and a Statement of Contributions to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, via this URL: <https://recruit.ucdavis.edu/apply/JPF06080>. The deadline for full consideration is December 1, 2023.

Questions: Please direct questions to Dr. Xiaosa (Jack) Xu <xjkxu@ucdavis.edu>.

- 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/everify>.

- 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