

GRADUATE STUDY IN FOREST PATHOLOGY

COLLEGE OF FORESTRY, WILDLIFE AND ENVIRONMENT AUBURN UNIVERSITY

The College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment at Auburn University is seeking a several Ph.D. candidates to study the environmental factors that drive the emergence and severity of infection from *Lecanosticta acicola* across the southeast. Pine forests and industrial wood plantations in the southeastern U.S. are crucial for the region's economic sustainability. In 2020, Alabama forestry sales of forest products and related sectors totaled more than \$11 billion. The sustainability and profitability of these pine forests and industrial wood plantations rely on optimal tree growth. However, the continued introduction of non-native insect pests and fungal pathogens, as well as the movement of native forest pests into forest ecosystems, can result in significant economic impacts. Costs associated with damage caused by non-native pests and pathogens within forests throughout the U.S. in 2000 were estimated to be valued at approximately \$4.2 billion annually. Consequently, insect pests and fungal diseases are a great concern to the forest industry. The student will collaborate with researchers from the USDA Forest Service, Mississippi State University, Alabama Forestry Commission, Alabama Cooperative Extension, Forest Health Cooperative membership. *Our laboratory is a diverse and respectful work environment.*

The position is available beginning August 2022. Interested applicants should send the following to Dr. Lori Eckhardt (eckhalg@auburn.edu).

- (1) Letter of application describing your academic and research experience and career goals;
- (2) Complete resume or CV showing the date of your most recent degree;
- (3) College/university transcripts (unofficial copy is acceptable);
- (4) Names, email addresses and phone numbers of two references; and TOEFL tests (for international students) scores (photocopy is acceptable).

Stipends: Graduate research assistantships are available at \$22,000/yr at the Ph.D. level plus tuition fees are waived. In addition, the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment has several fellowships for exceptional candidates. These are offered to prospective students and are awarded competitively.

Desirable qualifications: B.S. and M.S. in forest biology, plant biology, tree/plant physiology, plant pathology or related degree. In addition to meeting Graduate School admission requirements, applicants are evaluated and recommended for admission by the graduate faculty of the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment based on an examination of their scores on the TOEFL tests for international students, their previous academic record, experience, and letters of recommendation. A minimum GPA of 3.0 in previous academic course work.