

Cluster Hiring for Multiple Graduate Research Assistantships (Ph.D. and/or MSc level)

Forest Advanced Computing & Artificial Intelligence (FACAI) Lab

GFBI Hub-Purdue

Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, Purdue University

- **Three (3) GRAs in Quantitative Forest Ecology**
- **Two (2) GRAs in Forest Resource Economics and Forest Management**

Background: The Global Forest Biodiversity Initiative (**GFBI**) Hub in the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources at Purdue University (**GFBI-Hub-Purdue**) is a GFBI continental center of research, education, and public outreach. As the core of GFBI-Hub-Purdue, our Lab of Forest Advanced Computing & Artificial Intelligence (FACAI) employs the paradigm of Artificial Intelligence (AI) encompassing different state-of-the-art machine learning and statistical methods to study global, regional, and local forest resource management and biodiversity conservation. FACAI has two parallel focuses. The economic focus (FACAI-ECON) is supervised by [Dr. Mo Zhou](#), and the ecological focus (FACAI-ECO) is supervised by [Dr. Jingjing Liang](#). All the graduate students and post-doctoral fellows are affiliated with either FACAI-ECON, or FACAI-ECO, or both. The successful candidates may have opportunities to participate in research at other affiliated GFBI institutes around the world, including three other GFBI Hubs in China, Spain, and Switzerland.

➤ **ECON focus:**

Position description: Two research assistantships at Master's or Ph.D. level in the areas of Forest Resource Economics and Forest Management are available. For the Assistantship in Forest Resource Economics, the incumbent will be conducting research on data-driven approaches to derive landowners' preferences and valuations and determine drivers of forest management decisions. For the Assistantship in Forest Management, the incumbent will be conducting research on optimal decision making in forest management under risk and uncertainty and at large scales.

Qualifications: B.S. is required and M.S. in Economics, Statistics, Natural Resources, or Engineering is preferred for Ph.D. level. Passion for addressing contemporary challenges in natural resource use and conservation is a must. Strong quantitative skills and oral and writing proficiency are highly desired.

➤ **ECO focus:**

Position description: One (1) research assistantship at Ph.D. level and two (2) research assistantships at Master level are available in the area of quantitative forest ecology and global forest ecology. All the positions will be hosted by the Global Forest Biodiversity Initiative (**GFBI**) Hub in the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources at Purdue University, in West Lafayette, Indiana, USA.

The successful candidates will be conducting research on forest ecology and management, with a focus on biodiversity and forest ecosystem functioning. Under the supervision of Dr. Jingjing Liang and his close GFBI collaborators, each incumbent will select a topic that fits his/her expertise and interest, at various geographic scales, from community, regional, national, to global. All incumbents are expected to actively engage in all GFBI-related research, education, and outreach projects.

Qualifications: B.S. is required and M.S. in forestry, ecology, Statistics, or computer science is preferred. Passion for path-making research is a must. Strong quantitative skills and oral and writing proficiency are highly desired. Application deadline is September 15, 2018.

Salary and Benefits: The incumbents' initial academic-year ("AY") salary will be \$19,915 (MSc) or \$22,850 (PhD). Ph.D. assistantships with tuition waiver are funded up to three years, contingent upon satisfactory annual performance and availability of funding. A fourth year of support also may be possible. M.S. assistantships with tuition waiver are funded up to two years, contingent upon satisfactory annual performance and availability of funding. In addition, Purdue University provides a generous fringe benefit package.

Application: Applications are now accepted for the entry terms of Fall 2018 or Spring 2019.

A pdf file containing the applicant's CV, transcripts, GRE score, contact information of three references, and personal statement/plan of study should be sent to the email address listed below. Requirements for admission to the Graduate Program of the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources can be found at the following link:

<https://www.purdue.edu/gradschool/prospective/gradrequirements/westlafayette/fnr.html>.

For more information, visit: <https://ag.purdue.edu/fnr/Pages/GraduateStudiesFNR.aspx>

Contact:

Economics focus: Dr. Mo Zhou, mozhou@purdue.edu
<http://www.gfbinitiative.org/zhou>

Ecology focus: Dr. Jingjing Liang jjliang@purdue.edu
<http://www.gfbinitiative.org/liang>

Visit us Forest Advanced Computing & Artificial Intelligence (FACAI) Lab

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<http://www.gfbinitiative.org/facai>

Purdue University is an EEO/AA employer. All individuals, including minorities, women, individuals with disabilities, and veterans are encouraged to apply.