M.S./Ph.D Graduate Assistantships – Cover crop effects on water and nitrogen dynamics

Seeking motivated graduate students to start September 2016 in a multi-disciplinary degree (Agronomy, Soil Science, and Ecology) in the Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture at the University of Maryland. Students would be co-advised by Dr. Mirsky (USDA-ARS) and Kate Tully (UMD). Research will investigate the effects of cover crops on water and nitrogen dynamics in agronomic cropping systems. Students will have the opportunity to conduct field and laboratory studies as well as work with process-based water and nitrogen models. Our labs take a systems approach to evaluating agricultural sustainability and work closely with farmers to determine how best the scientific community can meet the needs of practitioners. Applicants must, therefore, be excellent communicators and listeners who thrive in collaborative environments.

Ph.D and M.S. applicants should have a solid foundation in soil science, agronomy, ecology, statistics and/or modeling. Ph.D. applicants should have earned a degree at the master’s level or above in the study of soil science, agronomy, or agroecology. However, applicants with significant field, lab, or work experience will also be considered. The candidate must be able to work both independently and as a member of a team. Preference will be given to those with field and laboratory experience – don’t be afraid to get your hands dirty. Integrity, enthusiasm, and creativity are required.

For more information about the project/research opportunities, please contact Dr. Steven Mirsky (steven.mirsky@ars.usda.gov) and Kate Tully (kltully@umd.edu). For more information on the graduate program and links to apply, please visit: http://psla.umd.edu/academic-programs/plant-biology-biotechnology-programs/plant-biology-and-biotechnology-graduate.