The Department of Plant Biology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign seeks a full time field and laboratory research specialist in the Global Change Ecology and Stable Isotope Biogeochemistry lab to work on soil nitrogen and carbon cycling for multiple projects funded by the USDA, NSF, DOE and the Illinois Nutrient Research and Education Council. This is a 12-month non-tenure-track Academic Professional position. The projects utilize state-of-the-art stable isotope techniques and include field work on local UIUC research farms and laboratory experiments using soils collected from across the NSF Critical Zone Observatory network.

MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The successful candidate will assist with field and laboratory research activities for multiple projects. Major responsibilities in the laboratory include the following:

- Sample soil pure water using tension lysimeters
- Trace gas fluxes using surface flux chambers
- Prepare reagents
- Assist graduate students and postdocs with, as well as independently, conduct stable isotope pool dilution and tracer experiments
- Run, maintain, and troubleshoot laboratory instrumentation related to these projects (including a gas chromatograph, SmartChem discrete analyzer, inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectrometer, stable isotope ratio mass spectrometer interfaced with a trace gas analyzer and elemental analyzer)
- Purchase and receive chemicals and scientific supplies related to these projects
- Assist with data compilation and analysis
- Supervise undergraduate students assisting with these projects including but not limited to: scheduling student hours, delegating tasks to students, ensuring quality of student work, and serving as point person for student questions in the lab

Major responsibilities in the field include the following:

- Collect soil samples within field experimental designs for use in laboratory experiments
- Install resin lysimeters.

QUALIFICATIONS

Required:

- Bachelor's degree in Biology, Environmental Science, Chemistry, or related field;
- Prior field and laboratory research experience in biogeochemistry (e.g., trace gas flux measurements, soil sampling, wet chemistry);
Experience running, maintaining, and troubleshooting major instrumentation (e.g., inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectrometer, SmartChem discrete analyzer, gas chromatograph, isotope ratio mass spectrometer);

Independent research experience

Preferred:

- Master’s degree in Biology, Environmental Science, Chemistry or related field
- Experience with stable isotope tracer or pool dilution techniques;
- Experience supervising undergraduate researchers;
- Experience ordering supplies and equipment

SALARY AND APPOINTMENT INFORMATION

This is a full time, 12-month appointment, academic professional position. The expected start date is as soon as possible after closing date. Applicants may be interviewed before the closing date; however, no hiring decision will be made until after that date. Salary is commensurate with experience and qualifications.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND DEADLINE INFORMATION

To apply for this position, please create a candidate profile at http://go.illinois.edu/ResSpecPB and upload your cover letter of which details qualifications noted above, CV, and the names and contact information of three professional references by August 13, 2018. All requested information must be submitted for your application to be considered. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

The University of Illinois is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action employer. Minorities, women, veterans and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply. For more information, visit http://go.illinois.edu/EEO. To learn more about the University’s commitment to diversity, please visit http://www.inclusiveillinois.illinois.edu