

GRADUATE POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Ph.D. Position in Soil Health and Water Quality

Dr. Yichao Rui, Assistant Professor of Agroecology

Dr. Sidd Paul, Assistant Professor of Geospatial Sciences

Description of Research Project

The Department of Agronomy at Purdue University is seeking a highly motivated Ph.D. student to start in Summer/Fall 2025. The position is fully funded through a USDA NRCS grant and the successful applicant will be co-advised by **Dr. Yichao Rui** (<https://purdue.ag/pal>) and **Dr. Sidd Paul** (<https://www.sspaul.com/>). This position will be part of a multidisciplinary project team with expertise in soil health, edge-of-field water quality, geospatial modeling, and outreach and extension. The selected candidate will work closely with advisors and project team members to conduct soil health assessments. The goal is to advance our understanding of the relationship between soil health and water quality and to explore how regenerative agricultural practices may impact water quality in the Great Lakes region.

Qualifications

Applicants should have a strong interest in soil health, biogeochemistry, remote sensing, and GIS. **A M.Sc. degree in these or related fields is preferred.** Previous research experience or coursework related to these topics, as well as a commitment to contributing to a collaborative and inclusive environment, are valued.

How to Apply

Candidates should first send a CV and 1-page cover letter summarizing their research interests to Dr. Yichao Rui (ruiy@purdue.edu) and Dr. Sidd Paul (sspaul@purdue.edu). Please use **“PhD position in soil health & EOF water quality”** in the subject line. Application screening will start immediately and continue until a suitable candidate is found.

Assistantships are contingent upon meeting all admission requirements of the department and Purdue Graduate School:

<https://www.purdue.edu/gradschool/admissions/how-to-apply/index.html>

Preferred Start Date

This project will begin in the Summer / Fall 2025



Stipend + Benefits Information

The selected applicant will be appointed as a Graduate Research Assistant with a stipend commensurate with experience plus health benefits and tuition remission. Student development is highly valued and will be supported with teaching, conferences, outreach opportunities, and customized development planning.

<https://www.purdue.edu/gradschool/documents/gpo/graduate-student-employment-manual.pdf>

Department of Agronomy

The Purdue University Agronomy Department is home to celebrated faculty and staff who share an unwavering commitment to student success. Our graduate students have access to innovative research opportunities, the latest technologies in the field and a curriculum that emphasizes the foundational knowledge and skills required to improve the productivity and management of agroecosystems.

The Agronomy graduate program currently boasts 37 faculty and 68 graduate students.

<https://ag.purdue.edu/department/agry/>




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