Position: Graduate student (opening available for one master’s and one Ph.D.) in Dr. Swathi Nadakuduti’s lab, Assistant Professor, Environmental Horticulture department, University of Florida. Office: (352) 273-4575; Email: s.nadakuduti@ufl.edu

Financial Aid: Graduate Assistantships with full tuition waiver and stipend available.

Start Date: Fall 2020/ Spring 2021. Applications due: Jun 26th, 2020. Review of applicants will begin immediately for fall admissions and will continue until the positions are filled.

Position details: The Nadakuduti lab is seeking highly motivated graduate students (both for Masters’ and Ph.D. programs) for studying specialized metabolites in medicinal plants, impact of controlled environments and aseptic production systems on the metabolite profiles and conducting field studies. The overarching goal of our research program is to understand the molecular mechanisms underlying the biosynthesis of bioactive compounds by integrating multidisciplinary approaches such as mass-spectrometry, RNA-seq, gene discovery and functional characterization. Our lab is also interested in exploring micropropagation, genetic transformation and gene-editing prospects in species under study. Another available project in the lab includes quantitatively studying the off-target effects caused by gene-editing reagents including CRISPR/Cas9, Cas12a, base editors, TALENs. Genes of economic importance in Camelina species will be targeted to improve its seed oil composition and gene-edited lines will be utilized to detect the off-target effects by whole genome re-sequencing. The positions offer opportunities for interdisciplinary collaborations and training including gene-editing, plant molecular biology, biochemistry, plant tissue culture, greenhouse/field experiments. More information about our lab can be found at https://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/faculty-profiles/sayta-swathi-nadakuduti/

Qualifications: Bachelors or preferably a Masters in Plant Biology/ Horticulture/ Molecular Biology/ Biochemistry/ Genetics or related field with an overall GPA of 3.5 or equivalent and GRE/TOEFL as applicable. Candidates with molecular biology and/or biochemistry skills and prior lab experience are highly encouraged to apply.

Responsibilities include:
1. Manage and carry through your research project
2. Complete graduate courses
3. Write scientific articles for publications and research Thesis/Dissertation
4. Oral presentations to disseminate research at professional meetings
5. Teaching assistant for one semester during the course of your degree program

To Apply: If interested, please send a PDF containing: one-page cover letter, curriculum vitae, course transcripts and your GRE/ TOEFL scores and three references to Swathi Nadakuduti at s.nadakuduti@ufl.edu.