Research Assistant Position

Job Summary
The laboratory of Dr. Polly Hsu at Michigan State University has an opening for a Research Assistant to investigate molecular mechanisms of plant-environment interactions. The candidate will be involved in multiple projects using techniques in plant molecular biology. To learn more about the lab: https://sites.google.com/view/polly-hsu-lab

% breakdown of duties
• 70% research (perform and document project-specific experiments, e.g. generating/identifying/characterizing higher-order mutants and transgenic plants in Arabidopsis, molecular cloning, DNA/RNA/protein-extraction, PCR, qRT-PCR, luciferase assays, and basic imaging analysis such as operating dissection microscope and light microscope)
• 15% prepare lab reagents and safety officer
• 15% assist in lab organization (ordering, organize/update chemical inventory and lab materials, calibrating and providing regular maintenance for lab equipment, establishing lab common protocols and assisting in training future Lab members on basic procedures)

Employment %
50-100%

Unit Specific Education/Experience/Skills
Knowledge equivalent to that which normally would be acquired by completing a four-year college degree program in plant biology, molecular biology or related science field; one to three years of related and progressively more responsible or expansive work experience with research projects and laboratory operations, operating and maintaining a variety of laboratory equipment, performing specialized and difficult analytical and research techniques, and designing research experiments in an area related to research being performed; may require software expertise specific to the area of research; or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

Desired qualifications for the position
• Attention to detail and thoroughness in record keeping
• Demonstrated organizational skills
• Experience with growing Arabidopsis on soil and sterile culture
• Experience with Arabidopsis crossing
• Experience in plant molecular biology and genetics: molecular cloning, identify and generate higher-order mutants, generate transgenic plants, DNA/RNA and protein extraction, perform gene expression analysis including qRT-PCR, luciferase assays etc.
• Experience with dissection microscope and light microscope
• Demonstrated ability to work independently and in a team environment
• Willingness to learn new laboratory techniques and procedures

**Work Hours**
Monday to Friday 8AM-5PM

**Required application materials**
Please send the following materials in a single PDF to polly.hsu.lab@gmail.com

- Cover letter, briefly summarize research experience, career goals, and how you could contribute to the research in the Hsu Lab
- Resume/CV
- Names and contact information of three professional references

**End date**
This is a limited-term position funded for one year from date of hire with possible extension depending on work performance and funding renewal.