A graduate research assistantship is available in Spring in the School of Plant, Environmental and Soil Sciences (SPESS) at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA. The primary focus of the research will be to increase understanding of the molecular and physiological basis in the variability of phosphorus requirements in sweetpotato. The overall goal is to use this knowledge to develop approaches to rapidly screen and identify breeding lines for development of phosphorus efficient varieties and for predicting phosphorus requirements of current varieties. The prospective Ph.D. (preferred) or M.S. candidate will become a part of an active interdisciplinary research program involving physiology, breeding/genetics, and molecular biology. The student will be expected to publish research results in appropriate journals and present the findings in relevant scientific conferences. The candidate will also have opportunities for grantsmanship and professional development.

An earned B.S. or M.S. degree in plant molecular biology, genetics, horticulture, or a related field is required. Effective oral and written communication skills are essential; experience with root architecture study, gene expression and/or molecular marker analysis is desirable. Some travel and physical labor may be expected.

Highly motivated, prospective students are encouraged to contact Niranjan Baisakh (nbaisakh@agcenter.lsu.edu) and/or Arthur Villordon (avillordon@agcenter.lsu.edu) with their most current CV, names of three references and a research statement, and to learn more information about the assistantship. Candidates must meet the academic requirements of the Graduate School and SPESS. Information on LSU graduate school admission process can be found at https://lsu.edu/graduateschool/prospectivestudents/index.php.