

APPLICATION WINDOW

Open date: January 1st 2023

Most recent review date: Monday Jan 30th 2023 at 11:59pm (Pacific Time)

Applications received after this date will be reviewed by the search committee if the position has not yet been filled.

Final date: Monday Feb 27th 2023 at 11:59pm (Pacific Time)

Applications will continue to be accepted until this date, but those received after the review date will only be considered if the position has not yet been filled.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Postdoctoral Scholar Opportunity at University of California, Davis

PI: Dr Alessandro Ossola

University of California, Davis

Department of Plant Sciences

The Urban Science Lab in the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of California Davis is recruiting a 2+ year postdoctoral researcher in the areas of urban forestry, agroecology and climate change science. The successful candidate will work within a newly project funded by the Foundation for Food and Agricultural Research (FFAR) titled “*Leveraging Big Data for Urban Tree Crop Selection Under Climate Change*”. The postdoctoral scholar will be advised by Dr Alessandro Ossola (<https://urbansciencelab.ucdavis.edu/>) and work alongside internal and external project partners, graduate researchers, and undergraduate students.

The successful candidate will study how climate change might affect the vulnerability/suitability of urban tree crops in urban and rural regions across the US by leveraging existing big data sources (e.g., the Global Urban Tree Inventory, GBIF, CHELSA, etc.) and innovative data analytics techniques based on community-led data collection (e.g., social media, citizen science, etc.).

The postdoctoral scholar will create species distribution models (e.g., species climate niches, SDMs, etc.) for edible tree species based on current and future climate predictions to inform which urban tree crops should be prioritized for planting at various US locations in coming decades. Working with students and the PI, the postdoctoral scholar will advance knowledge on the impacts that climate change might determine on community-led agriculture and human nutrition - as provided by edible urban tree species - as well predictions of future crop yields, food phenology and nutritional values of urban forests.

It is expected that the postdoc will lead 2-3 high-impact peer reviewed scientific articles per year. In addition, it is expected that the postdoc will mentor graduate, undergraduate students and volunteers as well as assist project the PI in organizing outreach activities (the first conference on The Future of Urban Food), and products for lay audiences comprising an open access crop selection online platform for US urban farmers. The postdoctoral scholar will have ample opportunities to interact with relevant graduate groups (e.g., Ecology, Geography, Horticulture and Agronomy, Environmental Science and Policy) and collaborate with graduate students. The Urban Science Lab is affiliated to the Climate Adaptation Center (<https://climateadaptation.ucdavis.edu/>) and the Center for Regional Change (<https://regionalchange.ucdavis.edu/>), among others, and foster transdisciplinary and co-produced research supported by a vibrant and diverse community of academics and postdocs. The postdoc will be able to deepen skills related to project reporting, budgeting, etc., and if desired, contribute lectures and teaching in urban forestry, climate change and data analytics classes.

We are looking forward to applications from enthusiastic candidates with demonstrated experience in writing and publication of scientific manuscripts, excellent oral and written communication and interpersonal skills as well as demonstrated leadership, and willingness to work in a collaborative environment. We are especially interested in candidates that will be able to think independently and critically and are willing to grow academically and professionally.

Minimum Responsibilities:

- A. Model climate niches and distribution of 100+ edible urban tree crops in the US based on datasets on species occurrence and climate data.
 - B. Ensure validation and accuracy of climate/species models and the creation of reproducible analyses pipelines.
 - C. Preparation of output data for a “urban tree crop selection portal” to be used by farming communities across the US in the prioritization of climate-ready tree crops.
 - D. Mentoring of graduate, undergraduate students and volunteers.
 - E. Preparation of manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals, project reports and updates for stakeholders.
 - F. Presentation at professional conferences and the media.
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Application / How to apply:

To apply, please email Dr Ossola the following documents with “FFAR postdoc application” in the subject line (aossola@ucdavis.edu). Applicants should submit the following:

1. Cover letter (one page): explaining why you are interested in this position and what makes you a good candidate for it.
2. Contributions to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion statement (one page, guidelines available here: <https://academicaffairs.ucdavis.edu/guidelines-writing-diversity-statement>)
3. Curriculum Vitae including full publication list
4. Names and contact information for 2-3 referees

Review of applications and candidate interviews will start after 01/30/2023 with a preferred start date of 04/01/2023 (negotiable). The position will remain open until filled.

CONTACT

For further information about the position, email any questions to Dr Alessandro Ossola (aossola@ucdavis.edu) with "FFAR Postdoctoral position" in the subject line.

QUALIFICATIONS

Basic qualifications (required at time of application)

PhD in urban ecology, biogeography, forestry, environmental and climate science or another relevant field and ideally research experience with species distribution modelling, climate analyses, big data analytics. Proficiency in data analysis and coding (e.g., R or Python) is required.

Preferred qualifications

Preference will be given to applicants with 1) expertise in urban forestry, urban ecology and allied disciplines; 2) strong communication and organizational skills; 3) ability to lead, design and conduct

robust reproducible science; and 4) strong publication records, or the potential for developing one. **Our team is committed to DEI values. Applicants from historically underrepresented groups are strongly encouraged to apply.**

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Document requirements

- Cover Letter (one page) - Statement explaining why you are interested in this position and what makes you a good candidate for it.
- Statement of Contributions to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (one page) - Contributions to diversity, equity, and inclusion documented in the application file will be used to evaluate applicants. Visit <https://academicaffairs.ucdavis.edu/faculty-equity-and-inclusion> for guidelines about writing a statement and why one is requested.
- Curriculum Vitae - Your most recently updated C.V., including a publication list.

Reference requirements

- 2-3 required (contact information only)

CAMPUS INFORMATION

UC Davis is a smoke and tobacco-free campus (<http://breathefree.ucdavis.edu/>).

We are an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer, and particularly encourage applications from members of historically underrepresented racial/ethnic groups, women, individuals' with disabilities, veterans, LGBTQ community members, and others who demonstrate the ability to help us achieve our vision of a diverse and inclusive community. For the complete University of California nondiscrimination and affirmative action policy see: <http://policy.ucop.edu/doc/4000376/NondiscrimAffirmAct>

Under Federal law, the University of California may employ only individuals who are legally able to work in the United States as established by providing documents as specified in the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. Certain UC Davis positions funded by federal contracts or sub-contracts require the selected candidate to pass an E-Verify check. More information is available at: <http://www.uscis.gov/e-verify>

The University of California, Davis (UC Davis) is committed to inclusive excellence by advancing equity, diversity and inclusion in all that we do. UC Davis celebrates the multi-cultural diversity of its community by creating a welcoming and inclusive environment demonstrated through a variety of resources and programs available to academics, staff, and students. Diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging are core values of UC Davis that are embedded within our [Principles of Community](#) and are tied with how to best serve our student population. Our excellence in research, teaching, and service can best be fully realized by members of our academic community who share our commitment to these values, which are included in our [Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Vision](#), our strategic plan: "To Boldly Go," our Principles of Community, the [Office of Academic Affairs' Mission Statement](#), and the [UC Board of Regents Policy 4400: Policy on University of California Diversity Statement](#). UC Davis is making important progress towards our goal of achieving federal designation as a [Hispanic-Serving Institution and an Asian American, Native American, and Pacific Islander-Serving Institution](#). The [Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#) offers a plethora of resources on their website, and the [Office of Health Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion \(HEDI\)](#) has outlined similar goals in their Anti-Racism and DEI Action Plan." There are a plethora of links available on the [About Us](#) webpage where you can learn more about our Administration, Diversity and Inclusion, Rankings,

Locations, Native American Land Acknowledgement, Sustainability, Visiting UC Davis, UC Davis Health, and Campus Safety.

The university is consistently ranked among the top institutions in the world for campus sustainability practices by the [UI Green Metric World University Rankings](#). UC Davis is focused on achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions and repeatedly shown its [commitment to preserving a healthy and sustainable environment for generations to come](#).

As a condition of employment, you will be required to comply with the University of California [SARS-CoV-2 \(COVID-19\) Vaccination Program Policy](#). All Covered Individuals under the policy must provide proof of Full Vaccination or, if applicable, submit a request for Exception (based on Medical Exemption, Disability, and/or Religious Objection) or Deferral (based on pregnancy) no later than the applicable deadline. New University of California employees should refer to Appendix F, Section II.C. of the policy for applicable deadlines. (Capitalized terms in this paragraph are defined in the policy.) Federal, state, or local public health directives may impose additional requirements.

JOB LOCATION

Davis, CA