

Ph.D. Position in Arboriculture & Urban Forestry

A Ph.D. graduate student position is available in the Arboriculture & Urban Forestry lab of Dr. Greg Dahle within the School of Natural Resources at West Virginia University (WVU).

Overview:

The general objective of the project is to understand why trees fail along utility distribution powerlines and thus aid utilities in preventing and reducing power outages. This project will involve acquiring and analyzing utility tree outage reports from across the country to determine if failure patterns exist; developing predictive models for identifying trees with increased likelihood of failures using machine learning tools; and determining the critical data fields for future data collection protocol. The Ph.D. student will assist in collecting the outage reports; coding and analyzing the data; and preparing manuscripts for peer-review publication. Data collection, analysis and course work will be completed at WVU which is located in Morgantown, WV.

Qualifications:

Applicants should preferably have completed a Master of Science degree and should have at least one degree (masters or undergraduate) in forestry, biology, ecology, environmental sciences, or a similarly related natural resource field. Preference will be given to applicants that are highly self-motivated, possess a strong work ethic, and have strong oral and written communication skills. It is preferred that applicants have a background or interest in utility forestry, as well as strong analytical skills. A cumulative GPA greater than 3.3 in undergraduate and graduate coursework is preferred. Short-listed candidates may be asked to submit a writing sample. The start date for this position is January 2024. This position includes a tuition waiver and health benefits, and a stipend.

Application materials:

Please submit: 1) cover letter, 2) curriculum vitae, 3) unofficial transcripts, 4) GRE scores, 5) contact information of three references, and 6) TOEFL scores (for international applicants). Please describe your career goals in the cover letter. Applications will be considered immediately and continue until the position is filled. To ensure full consideration, please e-mail your application material to:

Dr. Greg Dahle (gregory.dahle@mail.wvu.edu)
<https://www.davis.wvu.edu/faculty-staff/directory/gregory-dahle>