

Graduate Assistantship at University of Wisconsin-Madison: “Connecting Cultural Values and Indigenous Research Towards Food System Resilience”

A Graduate Assistantship opportunity is available with the UW-Madison Rural Partnership Initiative Project “Connecting Cultural Values and Indigenous Research Towards Food System Resilience” for next academic year, starting in the Summer or Fall of 2024. This graduate assistantship (minimum of two years, with opportunities for longer appointments) will be based at the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus in Madison, WI, with work throughout the state with Tribal community partners.

The project can adapt to the student’s interest, with potential foci including Indigenous crop production, agroecology, food and seed sovereignty, and soil health. The graduate assistantship position could be obtained through several graduate programs at UW-Madison, including Agroecology (<https://agroecology.wisc.edu/>), Environment and Resources (<https://nelson.wisc.edu/graduate/environment-and-resources/>), or other programs related to food systems, depending on student interest. We are particularly interested in the recruitment of Native and Indigenous scholars for this work, as we recognize that Indigenous Knowledge and Traditional Ecological Knowledge and expertise held by Tribes and Native communities can be braided with Western science and other scientific approaches to sustain and restore our agroecosystems. Students will learn and work with an interdisciplinary team of researchers within UW-Madison as well as with Tribal partners. UW-Madison and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences includes an active and vibrant community of scholars, students, and partners who are engaged with and committed to food sovereignty (<https://cias.wisc.edu/food-sovereignty/>, <https://nelson.wisc.edu/office-of-environmental-justice/uw-native-nations-partnerships/>)

This opportunity includes a two-year paid assistantship of approximately \$30,000 annually (exact salary depending on specific graduate program), which includes full benefits (including health care) as well as annual tuition (equivalent to \$12,000 annually). More information about University of Wisconsin-Madison graduate assistantships, including benefits, can be found here: <https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/graduate-assistantships/>.

All application materials are due between the beginning of December through the beginning of January, depending upon which program to which the student is applying. Please contact Dr. Erin Silva, emsilva@wisc.edu, prior to Dec. 1, 2023 for guidance as to how to apply. We encourage people of all identities and backgrounds to apply, including academic backgrounds and majors of study.

The University of Wisconsin-Madison is committed to the principles of equity and diversity. Diversity is a source of strength, creativity, and innovation for UW–Madison. We value the contributions of each person and respect the profound ways their identity, culture, background, experience, status, abilities, and opinion enrich the university community. We commit ourselves to the pursuit of excellence in teaching, research, outreach, and diversity as inextricably linked goals. The University of Wisconsin–Madison fulfills its public mission by creating a welcoming and inclusive community for people from every background — people who as students, faculty, and staff serve Wisconsin and the world.