

Atlanta Botanical Garden / Jones Center at Ichauway
Jointly Supported Graduate Research Assistantship

Purpose

This assistantship, supported through both the Atlanta Botanical Garden and the Jones Center at Ichauway, will provide a graduate student at Emory University with a well-rounded educational opportunity in plant ecology and conservation that will immerse them in both field and laboratory studies with a focus on applied research questions on the federally endangered species American chaffseed (*Schwalbea americana*). ABG and the Jones Center have already worked together to collect seeds from American chaffseed for their respective conservation seed banks. Additional focal areas that a graduate student could develop to further restoration and recovery efforts of this species include:

- Mycorrhizae research
- Micropropagation
- Outplantings
- Monitoring throughout its Georgia range
- Population genetics (would require additional funding)

Funding

This assistantship will cover two years of tuition at Emory University plus a stipend for supplies and travel. The student would have the opportunity to join the Plant Ecology research lab at the Jones Center as a seasonal technician the summer prior to their enrollment in graduate school. This would give the student the opportunity to learn about Ichauway and begin developing project ideas and protocols while also participating in routine Plant Ecology lab activities.

University Enrollment

The candidate for this position will be recruited through Emory University and will be advised there by Dr. Lance Gunderson. Dr. Emily Coffey of the Atlanta Botanical Garden will co-advise the student. The MS in Environmental Sciences at Emory University integrates ecological and earth sciences with policy and social sciences in a two-year program emphasizing quantitative research and practice. Emory graduate students work closely with faculty to develop a research focus and thesis, giving them an opportunity to learn and apply quantitative research skills. Graduates will gain the expertise needed to relate scientific findings to policy decisions and are prepared for work across an array of agencies (governmental, inter-governmental) and in areas of natural resource management, biodiversity and species conservation, and environmental management and conservation. Our students are also prepared for PhD programs if they choose.

The research-based thesis offers our student unparalleled access to faculty in anticipation of producing publishable, journal-ready thesis. Our cohorts are small as students work closely with faculty, so as an important next step please review our [faculty and their research](#).

Please apply to the MS program in ENVS at Emory, which has a deadline of 15 January 2021.

We will continue to accept applications until the end of January 2021.

A committee will review candidates and select the best candidate early February 2021. The recommendation will then go to the graduate admissions committee for final approval for admissions. Begin program August 2021 with the possibility of field work at the Jones Center starting May 2021.

Contact information

For more information about this graduate research assistantship, please contact:

Leah Thomas

Leah.thomas@emory.edu