

Dear Prospective Graduate Student,

Thank you for your interest in our research group. I am always looking for highly motivated and hard-working graduate and undergraduate students. Generally speaking, my current research falls under the themes of net primary productivity, landscape management practices, urban microclimates, urban vegetation structure and composition, and urban plant fungal interactions. Although these seem quite diverse, they are all related to how people manage vegetation in environments within which we live.

My graduate students are conducting multifaceted studies of urban vegetation. At any one time, our lab may be comprised of graduate research assistants, undergraduate researchers, and technicians. We meet weekly during the academic year to discuss our research progress and the current research literature in horticulture and ecology. Lab members find these meetings both stimulating and intellectually challenging as we aim to conduct it at the highest possible intellectual level. We also regularly attend national and international professional meetings in horticulture or ecology where we give oral or poster presentations of research from our lab. Oral or poster presentations at professional meetings are an especially good way for our graduate students to gain both presentation experience and exposure. Finally, in addition to a thesis or dissertation, graduate students in our lab are encouraged to publish their research findings in refereed science journals in order to successfully complete their graduate research experience.

There are other activities that students in our lab can participate including the [CAP LTER](#) and [IGERT](#) program in urban ecology. My graduate students are usually supported by teaching assistantships (TAs), research assistantships (RAs), or IGERT Fellowships, and I expect to support my students on RAs at least during the summer months, allowing them to conduct uninterrupted research. Various departmental and national/agency grants and scholarships have been awarded to my students in the past; I encourage students to seek this funding both for their experience as well as the independence it can afford them. In addition to our wet lab facilities, beginning in the Fall of 2005 we have a new 'state-of-the-art' greenhouse facility in which to do experiments as well as landscape field plots.

If you think we share common research interests and you wish to further pursue the possibility of graduate study with me, please let me know by email as soon as possible, and include a CV and basic information (your interests, GPA, GRE) with your email. I will let you know at that point whether I would consider your application. General information about the existing graduate programs in the Department of Applied Biological Sciences and SoLS, including application forms, are available on the web sites: <http://sols.asu.edu/grad/gdegrees.htm> and [http://www.poly.asu.edu/ecollege/appliedbiologicalsciences/abs\\_msprogram.html](http://www.poly.asu.edu/ecollege/appliedbiologicalsciences/abs_msprogram.html). Note that the annual deadline for receipt of all materials is December 1 for the Graduate College at ASU. While applicants may be considered after this, the probability of receiving financial support decreases after that date.

Thank you again for your interest in our research. I really look forward to corresponding with you further.

Chris Martin, PhD