

**GRA position (PhD) in Plant Sciences for:**

***Functional Gene Characterization in Soybean***

(PSES-PS Degree Program, Plant Molecular Genetics Concentration)



A PhD Graduate Research Assistant (GRA) position is available in the laboratory of Dr. Tarek Hewezi in the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN. The successful candidate will employ interdisciplinary approaches (including molecular biology, biochemistry, genome editing, and genomics techniques) that will be applied to functionally characterize soybean gene candidates that are involved in host plant resistance to soybean cyst nematode.

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

We are looking for a highly motivated applicant to the Plant, Soil, and Environmental Sciences-Plant Sciences (PSES-PS) PhD program who already has completed a Masters degree in Plant Sciences or a related disciplinary field. Strong written and oral communication skills, and documented abilities to handle laboratory projects in the area of plant molecular biology are required.

**START DATE:**

Anticipated start in January 2024.

**ENVIRONMENT:**

The Hewezi lab research focus is to improve the genetics and disease resistance of soybean and other crop plants using genetic engineering and genomics approaches. Information about the Hewezi Lab can be found at <https://plantsciences.tennessee.edu/hewezi-laboratory/>. The Department of Plant Sciences (<https://plantsciences.tennessee.edu/>) offers creative and cooperative environment and is one of several departments of the Institute of Agriculture. Our team's goal is to provide highly interdisciplinary and collaborative atmosphere for lab members enabling them to achieve scientific excellence and foster their career.

**PRE-APPLICATION PROCESS:**

Interested applicants should email Dr. Tarek Hewezi ([thewezi@utk.edu](mailto:thewezi@utk.edu)) and attach the following:

1. Cover letter - include explanation of your research experience and academic interests
2. Curriculum vitae
3. Names & Contact information for three professional references who would be familiar with your research and/or academic knowledge, skills, and experiences

**APPLICATION to UTK Graduate School is made online at:**

<https://gradschool.utk.edu/future-students/office-of-graduate-admissions/applying-to-graduate-school/>