MS Research Assistantship
Position Availability: Fall 2015

A half–time research assistantship including a competitive stipend and tuition waiver is available for a Master’s graduate student to do ground–based, thesis research to establish lighting and fertilization protocols for leafy green and dwarf tomato cultivars in controlled environments. Objectives will include creating and evaluating protocols for the “Veggie” plant–growth unit on the International Space Station for a future “pick–and–eat” scenario by astronauts. Experiments will be conducted initially in controlled–environment rooms growing test crops in expandable Veggie–analogue growth units with their own LED lighting and root-- support “pillows” designed to support plant growth in microgravity. The thesis work will be conducted in the Department of Horticulture & Landscape Architecture at Purdue University in the laboratory of Dr. Cary A. Mitchell in collaboration with scientists at the NASA Kennedy Space Center, the Orbital Technologies Corporation, and the Johnson Space Center.

How to apply: Students with a Bachelor’s degree in Horticulture or other appropriate plant—science—related field with interest in controlled environment agriculture are encouraged to apply.

Interested applicants should contact Ms. Colleen Flynn flynnck@purdue.edu for application materials or apply directly at the following link:

https://app.applyyourself.com/AYApplicantLogin/fl_ApplicantConnectLogin.asp?id=purduegrad

Questions about the research project can be directed to Cary Mitchell cmitchel@purdue.edu. Applicants with career goals open to possible future employment with space agencies may be interested in this educational and training opportunity. Purdue University is an EEO/AA employer fully committed to achieving a diverse workplace. All individuals, including minorities, women, individuals with disabilities, and protected veterans are encouraged to apply.