

Position Description, M.S. or Ph.D. Graduate Student

The Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Cincinnati in collaboration with The Center for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife (CREW) at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden is offering a unique opportunity for a qualified, energetic Masters (or Ph.D.) student with a strong interest in plant conservation and molecular biology. The student will be part of a project supported by a federal grant (IMLS) to evaluate and genetically compare individuals from *in situ* populations and *ex situ* collections of several highly endangered plant species in the Hawaiian Islands. The specific focus for the student will be to analyze and compare the genetic diversity of these groups, and work with others in the team, investigating those results in relation to the survival of samples through cryopreservation.

The student will work under the direction of Dr. Theresa Culley, from the Department of Biological Sciences, University of Cincinnati, in collaboration with Dr. Valerie Pence, the PI of the project, located at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden. The University and Zoo are within a mile of each other.

Candidates for this position should have a B.S. or M.S. degree with a strong background in plant genetic analysis and molecular techniques, such as microsatellites, SNPs, or other similar DNA-based markers, as well as in statistical analysis. A strong interest in plant conservation is also required. A familiarity with *in vitro* and/or cryopreservation methods is desirable.

The Masters position provides \$17,000 annually with tuition covered. A Ph.D. position provides an annual stipend of \$22,000 in addition to a graduate scholarship which covers most tuition costs. The position will start in the winter of 2020, but a start date of early summer, 2020, is also possible.

To apply for this position, go online: <http://grad.uc.edu/admissions.html>. More information on the application process for the UC Biological Sciences program is at: http://www.artsci.uc.edu/collegedepts/biology/grad/application_info.aspx. Review of applications will begin immediately and will continue until a suitable candidate is found.

For further information on the project, contact Dr. Theresa Culley, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Cincinnati, 614 Rieveschl Hall, Cincinnati, OH 45221-0006, theresa.culley@uc.edu; or Dr. Valerie Pence, Center for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife, Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, 3400 Vine Street, Cincinnati, OH, 45220: valerie.pence@cincinnati-zoo.org